

# The Loras College English Newsletter



LORAS COLLEGE

Becky J. Barnhart, Editor  
Volume 25, Number 1

Donna Bauerly, Ph.D., Professor of English, Coordinator  
Fall 2005

## Koch Receives Newman Award

by Lisa Dreznes ('07) and Lora Kalb (BA '95, MA '00)

This spring, Cheryl Jacobsen, Ph.D., provost at Loras College, presented the 2005 John Henry Cardinal Newman Award for Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership to Kevin Koch, Ph.D., professor of English.

The Cardinal Newman Award recognizes a faculty member who has a continued record of excellence in such areas as: campus involvement/leadership, creative course development, pioneering teaching methodology, counseling effectiveness, positive role model, and effective classroom teaching. The award is given in recognition of continued outstanding, dedicated leadership in the teaching and advising of Loras students and service to the community.

As Chairman of the Division of Language and Literature, Dr. Koch dedicates himself and his talents to enrich his job, his colleagues, and his students. Dr. Donna Bauerly wholeheartedly applauded Dr. Koch, stating, "he is truly a dedicated teacher, always keeping students foremost. Kevin is one of the few people I know who has so little 'ego' involved in whatever he presents. He seems always to be thinking of the 'other.'"

When asked his initial reaction after receiving the award, Dr. Koch commented: "Many good people won in previous years, and it's nice to be in their company."

Dr. Koch's love for Loras College and its people began when he was an undergraduate—he hoped to become a professor at his alma mater. Dr. Koch stated that his greatest accomplishment is fulfilling that dream from so many years ago: having the "chance to be a professor here and have many good memories of my students."

Koch, who graduated in 1981 and received his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Iowa, is the author of *Skiing At Midnight: A Nature Journal from Dubuque County, Iowa*, and the editor of *Rising With Christ: Catholic Women's Voices Across the World*. Koch also has presented at the Conference on College Composition and Communication and the National Council of Teachers of English Convention.



## Dr. Dorothy Atkins Retires

by Laura Lehmann ('08)

As the retirement of Dr. Dorothy Atkins ends a chapter in her life, a page will be missing from Loras College's book. Dr. Atkins grew up and began her college education in New Jersey. She remarks, "I was much older, however, when I started, because my dad said that I couldn't attend college. So, I started when I moved out on my own." After her graduation from the program, she was retained as a teaching assistant in the black studies program. At this time Martin Luther King Jr. was still alive and people were marching. Those living in the ghetto were invited to come to school, but no one wanted to teach them, so the teaching assistants did. "It was my first job and I loved it," Dr. Atkins recalled.

After two years, Dr. Atkins decided to further her education. She received her doctoral degree from the University of Nebraska and came to Loras in 1978. "I always wanted to teach in a small, liberal arts college, and that is exactly what Loras College entailed."

Dr. Atkins will return to Lincoln, Nebraska, where her family lives. The gentle presence and positive force she has shared in the Loras community will be missed by students and her peers. Here, they reflect on their past experiences and memories of her over the years.

**Dr. Andrew Auge** When I returned to teach at Loras in 1987 after completing my doctoral studies at Marquette, Dr. Atkins had just become the English department chair. She was a wonderful mentor to me in that formative period of my teaching career. I asked her countless questions about teaching strategies for World Literature and for Composition as well as for other courses. She always took the time to answer them thoughtfully, and she provided a very "wet behind the ears" young teacher with lots of support and gentle guidance. I can remember sitting in on one of her World Lit courses and being impressed at the care with which she listened and responded to her students. So I really feel deeply indebted to Dr. Atkins and will miss her greatly when she leaves Loras.

**Dr. Donna Bauerly** Dr. Atkins has been my colleague at Loras for many years. I was on the hiring committee when we were searching for someone for her present position in Victorian literature. She was outstanding among the candidates.

She has been a gentle presence in our department and a good friend. If you visit her office, you can see how she appreciates beauty and a peaceful environment. I believe she creates the same in her classes, a welcome atmosphere.

**Dr. Rita Dudley** Dr. Atkins has been a positive force in the department in terms of accepting new ideas and affirming others' interests in making courses better.

(Continued on page 19)

## Broadening Your Liberal Arts Education

by Megan Lester ('06)

Passionate, energetic, excited, and eager—could this be a way to describe professors? The answer is—absolutely! When professors are passionate about what they're teaching, the students definitely take notice. Not only is their enthusiasm "contagious," but class is that much more exciting.

At Loras, a few more diverse classes are being offered that students may not have heard of before. Spiritual Journeys—Pagan, Catholic, and Protestant, taught by Dr. James Pollock; Law and Literature, taught by Dr. Susan Stone; and Irish Literature and Culture, taught by Dr. Andy Auge, are three of the new courses students have the opportunity to take at Loras. I recently had the opportunity to interview these three professors to get their take on why they decided to teach these new classes, what kinds of things students can expect get out of the class, and their general thoughts on the class itself.

When asked about his interest in teaching his course, Dr. Pollock commented, "The idea for the course came to me when I noticed that no one at Loras was offering a course in Dante. I saw an opportunity to do something about it, although a course in Dante alone was out of the question. I designed a Catholic Traditions course, of which Dante would form a major part."

He went on to say that the spiritual journey is a recurring obsession of his, both as a poet and as a reader of poetry, and some of his favorite works of literature, including the three in this course, are treatments of this theme. Students taking this course can expect to read, write, think, and talk about *The Odyssey*, *The Divine Comedy*, and *Pilgrim's Progress* as expressions of three major religious traditions: Ancient Greek religion, Catholicism, and Protestantism. They'll focus on questions about the nature of the divine, the nature of human beings, the relationship between the human and the divine, ethical values, the afterlife, and the spiritual journey.

Dr. Pollock hopes his students will come away having read some very great works of literature in a way that enriches their spiritual lives and their spiritual imaginations. This course helps them understand some basic similarities and differences in these influential world views which should help them better understand the world. "One good thing about this course is that students can bring their own interests to it. Everyone gets to focus pretty much on whatever they want, within the basic guidelines of the course. Many students find they are interested in things they had never thought much about."

Another class rooted in literature, but paired with the legal aspect instead of religious, is Legal Eagles: Law in American Literature and Film (Law and Literature), a course offered by Dr. Susan Stone. "I'm interested in issues of law in fiction because moral and social law conflicts with laws in literature and how cultural events influence fiction."

Students can expect to do a variety of things in this course, from watching movies like *Amistad*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, and *Inherit the Wind*, to reading books like *To*

*Kill a Mockingbird* and *Prison Writing*, and stories from people like Shirley Jackson to Ann Rule to Thoreau. At the end of the semester, there will be a mock trial based on the actual trial of Leonard Peltier, author of "Prison Writing," which will be an integral part of the class. The class encourages students to find beauty and truth in literature about the people, places, and impact of "legal" fiction and creative non-fiction.

Hopefully, Dr. Stone says, students will be able to draw inspiration from their readings and the films, allowing new insights about humanity, justice, love, ethics, community, environment, and social responsibility to motivate their own actions and reactions. They will also be able to see the power and beauty of literature and of authors to create positive change. "Regardless of what major students have—pre-law, English, or other—they should take the course because it helps them be better able to handle things, and it's a lot of fun."

Dr. Andy Auge's class, Irish Literature and Culture, like the other new courses being offered, was based on something that he's long been interested in. Dr. Auge was involved in setting up the Dublin study abroad program, and he decided to have coursework here at Loras that would supplement that offering. Initially, it began as scholarship in that area, and the idea for this course flowed from there.

In Irish Literature and Culture, students will look at literature as a lens for the Irish culture. They'll be looking at things such as religion, gender, colonialism, family, and structure over 200 years of Irish literature. Students will start out with the film *The Quiet Man*, and get a sense of what it suggests about Irish identity, what constitutes Irish-American identity, and how that brings it back to, or roots it in, the Irish identity.

When asked about what he hopes students will get out of this course, Dr. Auge replied, "They'll get a sense of the complexity of Irish culture, and that will be able to transfer to understanding their own culture, as well as enjoying the Irish literature and culture. I want students to realize there's more to Irish culture than Guinness and shamrocks, so hopefully students will see beyond that [stereotype]. I hope this encourages interest in the Ireland program, as well as provides context to enrich experiences."

Regardless of what interests students have, these courses will have something for everyone.

### Editor's Note

Thanks to Donna Bauerly and Kevin Koch for their guidance and patience, and to the student writers for contributing their time and talent.

Thanks to our terrific proofreaders Tricia Behnke and Marlene Pinzka for their time and willingness to volunteer for such a worthy cause.

We would like to hear from you! Please e-mail us and let us know who, how, what, and where you are. If you have any suggestions for what you'd like to see in future *Newsletters*, let us know!

## Sun, Sand, and Service: Students Head South to Serve during Spring Break

by Liz Elsbernd ('08)

Haiti, Honduras, Alabama, and Kentucky were among the destinations of several Loras students seeking to spend their Spring Break serving the less fortunate. In addition to having some fun in the sun, these students, who did everything from mixing cement to painting bathroom walls, certainly shouldered their share of labor.

After an unexpected cancellation of the Haiti trip last year due to security issues, students were especially eager this year to embark on a much-anticipated voyage which would deposit them in a rural area just outside Port Au Prince. Although they arrived in Haiti expecting to do some heavy lifting and construction work, members of the Loras community found themselves painting bathrooms, showers, and a chapel at Loventure Cleary, a school from which hundreds of poor, academically gifted Haitian students receive a quality education for free. When they were not painting, the American volunteers instigated open discussions with the Haitian students. Topics ranged from Haiti's patriarchal society and women's issues to goals for Haiti's future. This week of service also included two trips to the Missionaries of Charity, where both a malnutrition hospital and an orphanage are established. Recalling how the group held, fed, and sang to the impoverished infants, Loras student Mary Dobson reported that the image of malnourished children with wrists the size of two fingers, gazing at her with pleading eyes, would forever remain engraved in her mind. Despite the seemingly hopeless situation of many Haitians, Dobson commented on the promise she observed even in a country suffering from an eighty percent unemployment rate. "There's really a lot of potential in Haiti. I saw firsthand the hope in their eyes, how hardworking they are, and how happy they are for the little they have."

The group of eight students traveling to Honduras found their experience to be just as eye-opening. Winding through the mountains on outdated yellow U.S. school buses and arriving in the rural Comeyagua Valley, the students observed police and civilians clutching automatic weapons and donkeys tethered to gas pumps—foreign sights to Americans' eyes, but all too common in those of Honduras citizens. Toiling in the heat of 90-degree weather, the Loras group spent their week mixing cement for the construction of a school funded by Mission Honduras, as well as playing, praying, and reflecting with the children residing at the mission. Upon his return to the United States, Loras participant Chris Johnson marveled at the contentment he observed among the Honduran children with whom he worked. "They're so selfless. This trip really changed my outlook; it makes me so grateful for all that I have." Their service did not stop upon their return to the United States. Members of the Loras community who participated in Mission Honduras will be holding a fundraiser to collect money in order to purchase goats for the poor of Honduras.

Loras was one of several schools in the United States to send volunteers to eastern Kentucky to participate in the

Christian Appalachian Project Workfest. The Loras group was appointed the task of repairing the home of 82-year-old Betty Skaggs, who had lived in that same house for over fifty years. Besides building new stairs leading to Skaggs' front door, the Loras volunteers tore off her back porch and roof and replaced both within the week they spent there. Impressed with the hospitality she received, participant Maggie Mills said, "I was touched by how grateful Betty was for what we were doing. Her excitement and kindness proved to me how important our work really was."

After a fourteen-hour ride, eleven members of the Loras community were greeted by rain as they rolled into Selma, Alabama. Unable to work outside as originally planned, their first day was spent painting a woman's kitchen. The remainder of the week was spent replacing the roof of a house ruined in a recent hurricane, as well as tutoring kids at an after-school program. Although Selma has distanced itself greatly from its notoriously tumultuous past, segregation remains conspicuously as an urgent concern, since the majority of black children attend public schools in the inner city, while white children are sent to private schools. Honoring the city's rich though not always admirable past, the Loras group also took some time to take a historical tour, visiting old churches, historic bridges, and memorials to people who died during the Civil Rights movement. On their way home, the Loras volunteers stopped at the Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham.

Although these four groups of Loras volunteers traveled to four distinctive locations and encountered four very different "cultures," they all shared a common purpose: To give for the sake of giving.

## Loras DES Wins National Recognition

by Jessica Urgo ('07)

This year's 2004-2005 Delta Epsilon Sigma writing contest was, once again, dominated by Loras English majors. First place for fiction went to Jody Iler for her story "The Gray Ghost." Alison Brogan's poem, "In the Window at the Northshore Country Club" won first place for best poem. Amber Gille received an Honorable Mention for her story "For Our Memories' Sake" in the Non-Fiction category, which was the only prize given in that category.

Loras created a DES writing contest in 1985. The contest went national in 1991 and has been ever since. Every year, with the exception of one, at least one Loras student has received first place for an entry, and this year was obviously no different. Aside from the contest, each year, the Loras chapter of DES publishes a magazine called *Alpha*, named because Loras is the Alpha school for the National DES honor society.

This year's *Alpha* is full of talented students' stories and poetry. If you are interested in reading any of the winners' stories or poetry along with any other entries, *Alpha* can be found at the information kiosk in the ACC.

## Habitat for Humanity

by Megan Cooper ('07) and Erin O'Brien ('06)

Imagine you are a single parent with three children. You've lost your job and are unable to afford adequate shelter for yourself and your family. What would you do? Habitat for Humanity has the answer, and has been helping such families by building affordable housing for decades.

Dr. Susan Stone, advisor to the Loras chapter of Habitat for Humanity, states, "Habitat for Humanity is a Christian non-profit organization dedicated to providing decent affordable housing for those in need." The Loras College chapter was started two years ago when an English major came to Dr. Stone to form a chapter on campus. This student had an internship with Habitat. Dr. Stone had also been a part of this organization during her first year at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, working side by side with former President Jimmy Carter. Since the start of the Loras chapter, hundreds of Duhawks have contributed their time to this organization.

This year, Habitat raised money through several different fundraisers: the selling of Nalgene bottles; build-a-block, in which different students and organizations buy blocks to build a miniature house; a gift wrap at Kennedy Mall; and a Walk-a-Thon also at Kennedy Mall. All of the profits go toward building houses for deserving families.

"Not only is Habitat an organization that fundraises money, but it also takes that money and the service of the members to build a house for a family. I think that is something that members gravitate to because they get to see the good that is going into their hard work. Instead of sending money somewhere, members work with the family personally and you can see the joy and gratitude in their faces—this is the reason I joined, I love working with people and seeing their faces just brighten," states Cristina Cozzone, fundraising chair.

In just two years, the Loras and Dubuque chapters of Habitat for Humanity have made extraordinary progress. With the help of this organization, Dubuque will be able to build houses for the next three years to help families who need that extra helping hand.

## International Irish Literature Conference

by Joanna Brady ('08)

Mark your calendars! The International Irish Literature Conference will be held at Loras this fall. Loras College will have the honor of hosting The American Conference for Irish Studies Midwest Regional Conference on October 20-22, 2005.

During this three-day conference, professors from all over the Midwest will present papers covering topics ranging from Irish literature and history to politics. Eavan Boland, Director of the Creative Writing program at Stanford University and a poet, will be giving a poetry reading. In addition, an address will be given by Prof. Eugene O'Brien, Head of the Department of English at Mary Im-

maculate College and Assistant Dean of Research at the University of Limerick, Ireland.

Dr. Andy Auge, Associate Professor of English at Loras, is a member of the International Irish Literature Conference and helped bring the conference here to Dubuque. He has been actively involved in bringing the Irish culture to Loras in many ways. He helped launch the Irish study abroad program in 2000 and teaches Irish authors such as Eavan Boland in his Literary Criticism class. Dr. Auge feels that Eavan Boland is one of the top Irish poets and a powerful writer. Last July, Auge delivered a paper at the International Association for the Study of Irish Literature on the Irish poet, and has written an article titled "Fractures and Wounds: Eavan Boland's Poetry of Nationality," which was published in the Summer '04 issue of the *New Hibernia Review*.

In regard to this upcoming event, Dr. Auge said, "The presence of Eavan Boland will add greatly to the conference."

## Students Find Advancement in their Internships

by Matt Balk ('08)

Internships play a critical role here at Loras College. One type of internship is the in-class peer assistant used in some first-year classes. These interns are more than willing to aid a classmate whenever the need arises.

Students involved with in-class internships have found the experience to be enjoyable and interesting. Tom McNamara, a student intern for Dr. Donna Bauerly for two semesters, says he has found interning for her "very rewarding." He also said that working as an intern "has helped me to improve my own writing skills." He says that interning "not only strengthens student skills, but also helps strengthen academic skills."

Lisa Dreznes, another intern for Dr. Bauerly (for three semesters), also has had a very positive exposure to interning. ". . . the most satisfying experience is knowing that I've made a difference in someone's life." While she does admit that work can be frustrating when trying to motivate "unmotivated, yet talented students," she says that the pros outweigh the cons. Tom and Lisa both agree on this matter, and say if they had to choose whether or not to do it all over again, they would choose to repeat the experience. Both of these students would also highly recommend internships to other students "in order to experience the accomplishment of teaching others and helping them through college life."

Others have found enjoyment in interning outside the classroom. Amber Gille has worked for two years at Carlisle Communications here in Dubuque. Amber highly encourages all students to pursue an internship early on in their college careers. "The internship allowed me to test the waters of a possible career and help me decide if I thought it was a field I would want to enter upon graduation." Gille currently works at Pearson Educational Measurement, in Iowa City, IA.

## Divisional Reconstruction

by Isabelle Stephens, ('07)

Although students here at Loras College may not realize it, the English Department, as well as all the academic departments at Loras College, has undergone vast changes in structure.

A couple of years ago a faculty committee began looking into restructuring the college's academic departments. The committee decided that instead of having 24 separate departments it would be more convenient and bring more campus community if these departments were combined together into divisions. This was proposed in the hopes that there would be more sharing of faculty resources, due to fewer division chairs, that communication would be made easier, and that all divisions would have representation on key committees, the academic council, and the faculty senate.

These changes have been implemented into the 2004-2005 academic year and have brought many changes to the English Department. The English Department has now been combined with Modern Languages & Cultures and Classical Studies in order to form the Division of Language & Literature. The division offers majors in English: Literature, English: Creative Writing, and Spanish, and minors in Publishing, Greek & Roman Studies, Spanish, and English.

Dr. Kevin Koch, the new divisional chair, sees the restructuring as an asset to Loras. One of the biggest advantages of this change is that now all programs on campus have more of an equal influence on decision making. Before the new restructuring, departments used to vary in size with anywhere from three faculty to ten or more, and the committee chairs had uneven work loads. Today, all divisions contain 12-15 faculty members and one chair.

Under this new policy, the faculty has more decision-making powers. The division chairs come together as the Academic Council in order to discuss and decide academic priorities, policies, programs, and proposals.

In taking on more responsibility as the divisional chair, Dr. Koch has made many adjustments. He now meets weekly with the modern language faculty and is helping them to complete their program review. Division chairs are also responsible for evaluating all faculty in the division, developing a divisional schedule and budget, running divisional meetings, and in general acting to keep things running smoothly.

The English Department encourages alumni to submit material for publication in *Outlet* or the *Newsletter*. Send your submissions to: *Outlet* or *The Newsletter of the English Department*, Box 856, Loras College, Dubuque, IA 52004-0178

Deadline for *Outlet* is February 14, 2006, and for the *Newsletter*, May 1, 2006. For more information, contact Dr. Kevin Koch at 563-588-7536 or [kkoch@loras.edu](mailto:kkoch@loras.edu).

## Sinipee Writers' Workshop

by Colleen Holland ('06)

"OK, ready? The letter is 'O' and the category is 'types of games.'" With a loud commotion, the entire class shouts different answers varying from Ouija boards to opposite teams. At the Sinipee workshop, many junior high, high school, and even Loras students learned a lot about themselves.

Over the past years, Loras has sponsored a writing workshop for adults. This year there were changes in format, such as cut backs on presentations and the addition of writing workshops. The Director of Continuing Education and the English Department thought it was a good time to share Loras' writing strengths with a younger population, so this year they added a writing workshop for junior high and high school students. Last semester, Dr. Koch's Language Theory and Teaching of Writing class, consisting of Maura Prunty, Missy Rork, Amanda Vanni, Micaela Weber, and Colleen Holland, organized the workshop. The younger students enjoyed the workshop. "I stopped in about three times during the day and each time it seemed as though the students were engaged and interacting with Loras students. My hope is that their feedback will generate a larger crowd for future workshops," said Dr. Koch.

Maura Prunty, a leader of the high school section of the workshop, thought the workshop was exceptionally successful. "I thought the writing workshop went extremely well. The activities were stimulating and exciting. We encountered some talented students and I was thrilled to see so many students interested in writing. I believe that high school students deal with many challenges growing up and it was so great to see students genuinely interested and enthused about writing. I thought the Loras students meshed very well together, each bringing variety and success to the table."

The day consisted of various writing exercises. The first portion of the high school workshop focused on fiction and the second portion on poetry. The middle school workshop consisted of a variety of short, fun writing exercises. English majors Jessica Urgo, Tom McNamara, Lisa Dreznes, Kathleen Volk, Alison Brogan, Quentin Smith, Kim Muenster, and Laurie Hunstad helped the original five students run the workshop. Dr. Koch added, "I enjoy working at a place in which I can call on the English majors to wake up at 8:30 on a Saturday morning and get such a great response."

### RECENT GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Ten students graduated from the MA program in 2005. They are: Edie Huss, Sarah Blosch, Carrie Gehl, Molly Burrows-Schumacher, Jane Northrup, Pamelape Gantz, Patricia Forrest, Jonathan Russell, Angela Takes, and Joshua Allen.

Congratulations to all!

## “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!”

by Sarah Lauer ('06)

Studying abroad is a challenge that many students take on during the course of their college careers. Studying abroad for a summer, a semester, or even for a year is an amazing experience that allows students to grow and change by stepping out of their comfort zones into a world entirely unknown to them. Studying abroad helps to expand their horizons and to enhance the entire college learning experience. The beauty of studying abroad is that it is a choice—it is an option that one chooses for him/herself. Choosing to study abroad is something that you do for yourself—not for your parents, or for your friends, or for your major—it’s much more about personal growth. Dr. Seuss may have said it best in his book, “Oh, the Places You’ll Go” when he said, “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You’re on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who’ll decide where to go.” International study is about YOU and what will fit you best. The experience is individual no matter where in the world you choose to go, or who you go with.

Here at Loras we are fortunate to have the Center for Experiential Learning (CEL) at our disposal in guiding us on such an adventure. Bobbi Martin and Andrea Muilenburg, who are the coordinators of the CEL, are personable and dedicated to making each student feel that international study is something that they are capable of.

There are currently 27 Loras students studying abroad this spring semester, including fellow English majors Amy Brueggemann who is in Santiago, Spain; Cecilia Allison, Mike Danaher, and Erik Insko who are in Dublin, Ireland; and Valerie Flynn who is in Pretoria, South Africa. Valerie has been sending e-mails home and here are some excerpts from the tales she tells about her experience, “Africa is like a dream—I’ve been here almost a week and have not gotten bored once. Even while I’m doing nothing I find myself being entertained by everything around me. . . . Our school has 67,000 students, 70% of whom have AIDS. Pretty frightening, huh? . . . Last night we pulled into town late in the evening, and I had the familiar sense of returning home after a long vacation.”

Studying abroad brings about a rollercoaster of emotion, but I know from experience that international study was one of the best things that I could have possibly done for myself during college. Last semester, I, (along with fellow English major Amanda Oostendorp) was fortunate enough to be able to spend 6 months in Pretoria, South Africa, through Loras’ affiliate program with the University of Pretoria. This is an excerpt from a journal of October 14, 2004—about 3 months into my stay:

“This journey to Africa was about many things for me, but the fundamental reason for my coming here was for personal growth. It has given me a new and fresh perspective on a lot of things. My independence has come to a whole new level. College was one step, but even then you depend highly on other people. It’s a whole new ballgame

when you get dropped in a country that’s entirely unfamiliar to you. They give you about 100 keys to your house and say, “Good luck.” You don’t know anyone and you have to figure out everything on your own. I’ve never had to do that before . . . it forced me out of my comfort zone and I learned to do what I had to do in order to survive.

I’ve also learned that I do not need to wait for something, or someone to come along and change my life, that it was me all along who had the power to do so. . . . However, through all of this self-realization and independence, I also know that I can’t do everything on my own. I need people too, and being away for awhile clears your head enough to recognize who will really be there for you when you need them the most—who truly matters in your life.

Traveling is about growing and learning about who you are and the world around you, and how that all fits together. It allowed me to put my priorities in order, to spend some time alone, and to spend some time in prayer.”

Choosing to live and study in another country certainly isn’t for every student, but for those willing and able to brave the uncertainty and accept the challenge head on, it will become one of the most memorable and rewarding experiences of your lifetime. One of the great Russian writers, Leo Tolstoy, once said, “Only by knowing some other culture can you understand and appreciate the uniqueness of your own.”

## Raschke to Spend Year on Sabbatical

by Laura Lehmann ('08)

Dr. Elizabeth Raschke will partake in a new experience during the spring of 2006 as she takes the semester off for a sabbatical. Dr. Raschke has been teaching at Loras College since 1984 and decided this was the right time to continue a project she started in 1997 during her work on her doctoral dissertation. To apply for the sabbatical, she first sent in an application describing her intended project, explaining how her work will benefit the college and department, and detailing her past service to the college.

Her project pertains to nineteenth century female writers and their novels of development, also known as *Bildungsroman*. She has already written about three female writers: Jane Austen, Maria Edgeworth, and Charlotte Brontë. Raschke intends to renew and refresh scholarship on these three authors and expand her project by researching works of Frances Burney.

“By the end, I hope to have publishable articles and enough work to constitute some form of book manuscript,” Raschke stated. “Regardless, my sabbatical could add new courses down the road on *Bildungsroman*, or a biography course on Jane Austen. Dr. Stone and I also talked about a course on Women’s Literature and that, too, could benefit from this study.

This sabbatical is a good opportunity for me to get rolling on my project. I’ll be able to read without getting interrupted by the day-to-day aspects of teaching. It will allow me to get away for a little while to get momentum and do uninterrupted research.”

## Frank Lehner Award for Teachers of English

by Kevin Koch ('81)

A Loras College English graduate from the 1960s who wishes to remain anonymous has contributed funding for a Frank Lehner Award for Teachers of English. The award is to be given each year to one or two students in the English program who show particular promise as future teachers of English at the secondary education level. The cash award is worth \$1,000 for a single recipient or \$500 apiece for two recipients.

The 2005 co-recipients are Maura Prunty and Amanda Vanni. In 2004, the award was given to Kyle Klapatauskas and Jenna Crew Beyer.

The donor of the award writes:

Only occasionally does one meet a person, who is not a family member, who has a profound influence on one's entire life. Many of these meetings are serendipitous, as was my introduction to Dr. Frank Lehner, in the mid 1960s. As a result of random probability, I was assigned to his sophomore survey of literature course. I can still picture his military posture, every hair in perfect formation, still hear the somewhat staccato cadence of his opening salvo as he passed out the syllabus, and that mercurial, falsetto clearing of his throat to provide that emphatic calling to attention a perhaps wandering mind of an underclassman. Dr. Lehner demanded perfection and his professional standards were those of an *Übermensch* (the slacker was doomed to failure) and he was not reticent to expound upon those standards he set. Getting an A from one of his classes was a jubilant event. Simply put, I learned from him the basics of organizing thoughts into a coherent structure that could be translated into written words others could understand.

I was not sure what career path to pursue when I entered Loras. I decided in part to become a high school English teacher during my courses with Dr. Lehner (in fact I took every course he taught during my years at Loras). When I began teaching in a small Illinois parochial school following my graduation, I became a second or third-rate imitator of the colossal Frank Lehner. Frank was a passionate teacher with not a shred of the mundane. Years later, while reading from Denton Welsh's novel *In Youth Is Pleasure*, I found the perfect sentence to describe, in essence, what I learned from Frank, and what I've appropriated as one of my mottos for life: "He demanded nothing of us but that at all times we be extravagant." I know most caution against extravagance, but I advocated it to my students, then, and now to my employees. (I left teaching after two years to begin a 33-year military career, both as a soldier and a civilian, who ended as the chief of education policy for one of the branches of the military.)

I kept an irregular correspondence with Frank over the years and through his letters know that he was pleased by the hopefully positive influence he had on my professional life. I hope to join others in honoring his memory through the Frank Lehner Scholarship for future English teachers.

Why English teachers? I believe that the fundamentals of thinking, through reading and writing, are learned in high schools. Those fundamentals for a large share of the population are the only reading comprehension and writing skills they will formally learn. High quality, extravagant teachers challenge and excite students. I know Frank was an inspiration to me, and I hope I passed on some of his quest for perfection and success to both students and employees I've been privileged to mentor. The goal of the scholarship is to continue to excite high school students to

## October an Exciting Month at Loras!

**Visit and lecture by Dr. Randy Brooks**, Professor of English at Millikin University, Decatur, IL. Brooks, a Roseliep scholar and poet, has received national awards for service learning and international recognition for his writing and editing of haiku poetry.

Dr. Brooks has more than 25 years of literary editing experience and has published 60 poetry books and four journals. See the Millikin University Haiku web site at <http://www.millikin.edu/haiku> for more about his students' work with haiku at Millikin.

Dr. Brooks will give a talk and poetry reading on Thursday, October 6, at 7:30 in room 242 of the Science Hall. Contact Donna Bauerly for further information.

**English Homecoming Breakfast**, featuring a teacher panel of recent MA graduates (Sarah Blosch, Carrie Gehl, Brian Kallback, Paul Kilgore, Dianne Koch, Georgiana Lancaster, and Jane Northrup) who teach in Dubuque and the surrounding area. The breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 15 at 9:30 AM in the Center for Teaching and Learning, Alumni Campus Center.

Contact Kevin Koch or Donna Bauerly for further information.

**The International Irish Literature Conference** will be held at Loras College October 20-22. During the three-day conference, professors from all over the Midwest will present papers covering topics ranging from Irish literature and history to politics. Eavan Boland, Director of the Creative Writing program at Stanford University and a poet, will be giving a reading. (See related article, page 4.)

Contact Kevin Koch or Andy Auge for further information.

gripping the rosary  
my Grandmother  
rubs out her fears

Amber Gille, *Alpha, Outlet*

## Senior Interviews

by Quentin Smith ('05)

### Amanda Oostendorp

Amanda, you came to Loras in your sophomore year. Where were you at freshman year?

*I was at Augustana in Rock Island, where I majored in communications. So, I came to Loras where I planned to continue studying communications until I found another college.*

But you didn't leave or stay in communications.

*Correct. I loved Loras so much I decided to stay. I also became an English Major after taking Dr. Raschke's British Literature: Fathers/Daughters course.*

Amanda, what is one quirk of a professor that made you laugh?

*I would have to say Dr. Wilson and his famous study guides!*

If you had to be any character from any book you have read, who would it be?

*I would be Elizabeth Bennett from Pride and Prejudice.*

### Micaela Weber

So Micaela, you plan to teach English to high schoolers?

*Yeah, it should be a blast.*

What is the most influential course in your 4 years?

*I would definitely say American Literature with Dr. Bauerly. She really gave us a plethora of the best works in this century. I really felt like the works we read in this class helped me understand myself the most.*

Who would you say is your favorite author, and what the most influential work you have read?

*My favorite author is John Steinbeck. The influential work would be . . . (pauses) The Fifth Child by Doris Lessing.*

### Alison Brogan

Are you going to teach right after you graduate?

*No, I plan on getting my masters degree in secondary education, then I will teach.*

So what other things do you do around campus when not reading and writing?

*Well, right now I am hiding from Mr. Knefel because I am trying to get my thesis done (laughs).*

What would you say is the most influential class in your four-year career?

*Literary Criticism was definitely the most influential class. Dr. Auge is a fantastic and fun teacher who makes you want to learn more.*

Alison, what would you say is the funniest quirk of an English teacher?

*(giggles) I think it's cute when Dr. Wilson laughs to himself.*

If you had to be any character from a book, who would you be?

*Heidi from Wendy Wasserstein's play The Heidi Chronicles. She's very witty and independent.*

What is the best place to study in our library?

*The faculty room we aren't supposed to go in—it has a couch.*

### Amber Gille

What are the plans after graduation?

*I am going into the publishing industry. I would like to write a book, too.*

What is the best class you have taken at Loras?

*Literary Biography—one semester with Donna Bauerly is like having an entire life's worth of thoughts and information crammed into your brain all at once. I'd compare it to walking through a tornado and coming out alive.*

Any one who has had Dr. Bauerly will understand your vivid comparison. Who would you say is your favorite author, and what would you say is the most influential work you have read?

*My favorite author is a tie between Flannery O'Connor and Raymond Carver. I have so many works that have influenced me. I guess I would say anything by Raymond Carver, The Crying of Lot 49, and Beloved.*

What would you say is the funniest quirk of a professor?

*I love Dr. Auge's "rockin' in the 80s" jacket. He reminds me of the Boss. You know, "the Boss," Bruce Springsteen.*

### Kathleen Volk

What about your favorite author and most influential work you have read?

*Well my favorite authors are Raymond Carver, Thomas Pynchon, Samuel Johnson, William Blake, Eavan Boland, and William Godwin.*

What is your most prized piece of work?

*My senior history thesis on the civil rights movement organization SNCC. Let's just say it took a long time and a lot of hard work.*

This I cannot doubt. Kathleen, if you had to be any character in a book, who would it be?

*Well of course there are many, but if I had to choose, it would be Antigone from Sophocles' Antigone. She was one of the first women of strength in literature.*

### Justina Quade

Jina, I know you have wanted to be a writer all your life. Are those plans going to continue?

*Well, yes and no. I am going to work at a college somewhere as a hall director, and hopefully I can find time to write my favorite, romance novels.*

What is the most influential class you have had at Loras?

*I got so much out of my senior thesis class!*

Who would you say is your favorite author, and what is the most influential work you have read?

*My favorite authors are Kate Chopin, Edith Wharton, Virginia Woolf, and Anne Tyler. The most influential work I read was Joyce Carol Oates' We Were the Mulvaney's.*

Jina, if you had to be any character from a book you have read, who would you be?

*I would want to be Jane Eyre. She got the guy she loved even though there were heartaches and obstacles in the way.*

### Amanda Vanni

Did you know that you are the third interviewee who is going to teach English to high schoolers? Do you remember high school?

*(laughs) Well, since you put it that way . . .*

What is the most influential class you have had at Loras?

*Dr. Koch's Nonfiction Writing course and Dr. Pollock's Poetry courses.*

Who is your favorite author, and what is the most influential work you have read?

*My favorite author is Eavan Boland, and the most influential work I have read is her An Origin Like Water. The whole collection of poems is incredible.*

What is the funniest thing you have seen a teacher do?

*(laughs) I find it funny and at the same time amazing that Dr. Bauerly can tie the day's comic strips and current events into the class material.*

After Loras, **Quentin Smith** plans to settle in Dubuque with his wife Katie and son Luke, who is seven months old. His best work produced as a writing major is Snakeskin. He has been most influenced by The Golden Notebook (Doris Lessing), The French Lieutenant's Woman (John Fowles), Anna Karenina (Leo Tolstoy), This Boy's Life: A Memoir (Tobias Wolf, favorite author), The Italian (Ann Radcliffe), Arcadia (Tom Stoppard), Paradise Lost (John Milton), and Beloved (Toni Morrison).

## 2005 *Alpha* and *Outlet* Sampler

### February

Like children's scribbles in black crayon  
on canvas,  
the trees rise from the snow,  
and lean against the white morning sky,  
to rest their heads on the clouds  
like pillows.

The sun, too sleepy to muster much color,  
throws only a faint glow  
morning's way.

Tired of itself, Winter hangs in the air  
and collects days until spring.

Barbara Simon, *Outlet, Alpha*  
(Editor's note: The above poem is the winner  
of the 2005 Irma M. Duwa Poetry Award.)

### day off

*at mount greenwood park*

our skates sliced through  
thin layers of white  
on the clear ice

and scores of laughing  
catholic schoolchildren  
flooded the rink gate  
at three o'clock

mothers smelling of coffee steaming  
from cups clasped in their hands  
chased children with mittens and hats  
and warnings to keep warm

the sun whelmed in the west  
and the grey clouds  
quickly filled with black  
and the tall-standing lights  
flickered on around the rink  
and the cars on 111th street  
whisked past in black slush

and we still are slicing through  
thin layers of white  
on the clear ice

Tom McNamara, *Outlet, Alpha*

### To My Birthday

Birthday, here you are again.  
How quickly you arrive these days!

Not like when I was a kid,  
And you hid far out of sight,  
And dragged your heels in the earth  
And harnessed the sun.

You watched me through Woolworth's window  
Wearing a child-size path in the toy aisle  
In search of a perfect doll.

I waited for you to bring  
A lopsided cherry chip cake  
Iced in pink swirls  
With our names spelled out in hard candies.

Back then, you winked down at me  
From the Farmers' State Bank calendar on the kitchen wall.  
I discarded the other days like chewed gum.

But today, you tap me on the shoulder again  
Before I finish saying goodbye.

Barbara Simon, *Alpha*

### Magdalene

but I think it's okay, well  
I know it's okay because

after I couldn't breathe  
and after I couldn't see

after I broke down and screamed  
and after I cracked the wine glass in my hand

after I ran outside and fell  
and my hair whipped my cheeks and my eyes  
that were already red and wet and pouring  
I heard a sound so loud and distant like angels

the wind was playing the railing of the stairs like a harp

Alison Brogan, *Outlet*

### Become Me

Looking out from a mirror above a grimy faucet,  
I see him sitting with his back to me.  
I catch a glimpse of his eye in a porcelain lamp.  
He's wringing his hands.

Every morning I see this face peering into my own.  
Every morning he seems not to recognize me.  
He turns his back on me as usual,  
but a sigh escapes his lips like a fog.  
One day soon I will realize who I am.

James Stence, *Outlet*

cemented between the lines  
a life story  
and morning coffee

Kathleen Volk, *Alpha*

## Our Family Album



Iggy Lou, Bridget Lulay's ('01) puppy.



Camille Anne Reed, daughter of Robin (Slaht) ('03) and Mike Reed.



Cara Lynch ('01) and a child from Casa Hogar Orphanage.



Carrie and Anna Gehl (MA '04) and Annie Bauerly at Dr. Bauerly's home.



Engagement photo of Jen Reding ('03) and Don Bloomquist.



Jamin Stuhr, son of Michelle Andregg Stuhr ('98).



Cathy Wegmann Wilson ('99) and her husband, Allen.



Graduation 2005. From left: Pamelope Gantz, Angie Takes, Jane Northrup, and Molly Burrows-Schumacher. Front: Graduate coordinator Dr. Donna Bauerly.



Charley, Emily Pringle's ('02) dog.

**Dr. Andy Auge, Associate Professor of English**, continued his work as Director of the First-Year Interdisciplinary Seminar (Modes of Inquiry program) and taught a Modes of Inquiry course on the Vietnam War and Anti-War Protests. He also taught for the first time a course on Modern Irish Literature and Culture.

He finished an article on the Irish poet Paul Muldoon—"Imperial Philosophy and the Resistant Word in Muldoon's *Madoc: A Mystery*"—which is currently being considered for publication. He learned that Loras was selected to host the American Conference for Irish Studies 2005 Midwest Regional conference. The conference will be held October 20-22, 2005, and will bring approximately 80 scholars on Irish history and literature to Loras. One of the conference's highlights will be a reading on the evening of October 21<sup>st</sup> from Eavan Boland, Director of Creative Writing at Stanford, and one of the premier contemporary Irish poets.

**Dr. Donna Bauerly, Professor of English**, had her usual year: teaching four classes each semester: Critical Writing Poetry and Fiction, College Writing, American Literature for Modern and Contemporary Prose, and a cluster each semester: "Search for Identity" course with Dr. Dunn's "Introduction to Personality." She also welcomed a number of new first-year student advisees, served as the English Department Graduate Coordinator, moderated the National Catholic Honor Society *Alpha* magazine, coordinated the *Newsletter of the Department of English*, judged the Galena high school poetry contest, served her ninth year on the Dubuque Community School Board, and her sixth year on the Carnegie-Stout Public Library Foundation Board. This past year she was elected President of the Foundation Board and is busy coordinating a "First Edition Auction" for March of 2006! For the Dubuque Franciscans, she gave an overview of her Raymond Roseliep biography research, reading her published article "One More Roseliep" and interacting with a group of nuns who were very dedicated to Roseliep during his life and especially in his final years as chaplain of Holy Family Hall. She traveled this summer to Santa Fe, NM and to Creede, CO, for her continuing Roseliep research, part of her Catholic Chair activity. In the summer of 2005, she was able to write *Chapter One: Son* of this biography, about Roseliep's ancestral background. She helped guide nine graduate students who completed their orals this fall and spring and summer. For one of the March Brown Bag luncheons honoring women at Loras College, she co-presented, updating her article "Sweet Sixteen," a review of what has been women's experiences at Loras College since her own beginning at Loras College in 1971—the year of the Women at Loras! A highlight of her various appearances was a presentation for the Dubuque Museum of Art, titled "What Is American in American Literature," part of a series of four talks about various Arts.

**Professor Karla Braig (BA '78, MA '88)**, just began her twenty-eighth year of employment at Loras College. She is

full-time Director of the Publications Center in addition to being an adjunct in the English Department. Karla has also taught in the MOI program since its inception. This year, instead of using the topic of "1968" as her focus for MOI, she has developed a class called "The Catholic Worker and Non-Violent Resistance." She intends to have her College Writing students pursue the study of "1968" in their section, since that topic lends itself so well to a writing class.

In the spring of 2005, Karla accompanied Loras students, through Campus Ministry, on their yearly service trip to Washington, D.C., where they lived in a homeless shelter, worked in soup kitchens, and took part in demonstrations with Jonah House, a resistance community from Baltimore, at the federal prison in Baltimore and at the Pentagon.

Karla continues her involvement with Hope House, the Dubuque Catholic Worker house, and the intercultural office on the Loras campus. She and her husband, Jim, hosted Japanese students for two weeks in the fall of 2004. But the joy of her life continues to be her four grandchildren, and although they live far away, she manages to spend some time with them each winter during her "granny visits" and every summer, when they all come to "granny camp."

**Professor Rita Dudley** is director of Headwaters, the Loras College Writing Center. She is administrator of the Headwaters website on the Loras Intranet and instructor/trainer for consultants who work in the Writing Center. She has taught College Writing, English Composition Skills, English Portfolio, and Modes of Inquiry at Loras. Her Loras committees include First Year Experience Committee, Admissions Committee, Interfaith Task Force, the Loras Alcohol Task Force, and the Continuing Education Committee. She also served on the search committee for the head librarian position for Wahlert Library.

A member of a local writing group, she is working on a historical fiction novel set in the 1870s in Wisconsin. Parts of the book are based on research of events in that era.

Dudley has also served as vice-president of the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and as a board member for Lutheran Social Services of Iowa. Currently she serves on the Wartburg Theological Seminary Board of Regents, the ELCA national church nominating committee and the Covenant Cluster board of three ELCA seminaries.

**Professor Don Knefel, Associate Professor of English**, participated in several English Department initiatives: he helped with discussion and planning of first-year writing course assessment; served on a departmental subcommittee for curriculum mapping; and participated in program review.

In addition, Knefel served on the *Outlet* staff as an associate advisor.

In college-wide activities, he participated in General Education Critical Portfolio training and redesign; helped with discussion of Advanced General Education Aesthetics assessment, and will supervise ongoing assessment of AA classes for the academic year 2005-06. Knefel served on the Individualized Major Committee and the Rechenmacher Scholarship Committee.

In other activities, Knefel continues to write his "Critic at Large" column for the *Telegraph Herald*, now in its eleventh year—over 200 columns published so far.

He received an acknowledgement in a newly published book, *Midnight Assassin: A Murder in American's Heartland*, by Patricia L. Bryan and Thomas Wolf (Algonquin, 2005).

**Dr. Kevin Koch, Professor of English**, completed his first year in his new role as Chair of the Division of Language & Literature, which includes the English, Spanish, and Greek & Roman Studies Programs. Dr. Koch is still in one piece, but has more gray in his beard. In more exciting news, he taught Nonfiction Literature & Workshop (formerly Contemporary Nonfiction), Theory & Teaching of Writing, Creative Nonfiction, and Monastery Voices. In his own writing life, Dr. Koch published an essay titled "The Savanna Army Depot: Prairie and Production in the Former Home of Bombs" in *Big Muddy: A Journal of the Mississippi River Valley*. He also gave a lecture and nature writing workshop at the Sinipee Writers' Workshop held at Loras College in April, and worked with Loras English majors to design a creative writing workshop for area students grades 7-12 that was held in conjunction with the Sinipee program. In the spring, Dr. Koch was awarded the Cardinal Newman Award for Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership at Loras College.

**Dr. James Pollock, Associate Professor of English**, taught a summer edition of his Cultural Traditions course entitled Canadian Imagination, in June of 2004. Dr. Pollock spent July of that year with his wife on a scholarship at Charles University in Prague at the Prague Summer Program for writers. In August they moved to their new home in Madison, Wisconsin.

In addition to his regular courses in Shakespeare, Poetry Writing, Advanced Poetry Writing, and College Writing, Dr. Pollock taught two new courses in 2004-05: Medieval and Renaissance British Literature, and Spiritual Journeys, a Catholic Traditions course. He will be teaching a new Honors course in European Modernism in the spring of 2006.

He served as Associate Advisor to *Outlet*, as advisor for several senior creative writing theses and literature portfolios, and on several committees, including the Honors Committee, the Individualized Majors Committee, the English program's Curriculum Mapping Committee, and the Calendar Committee, charged with writing a comprehensive plan for revising the college's school year. He was a featured speaker and workshop leader at the Sinipee Writ-

ers' Workshop in April, 2005. He also underwent a successful third-year review by the Faculty Council over the course of the year, with the generous support of his colleagues in the English Department.

He wrote several new poems during the academic year, and was an active member of the Redactors, a writing group for Loras faculty. In May, he was awarded a scholarship in poetry to attend, together with his wife, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, in August 2005, at Middlebury College in Vermont.

**Dr. Liz Raschke, Assistant Professor of English**, continued her membership on the Guidance and Counseling Committee and the Teacher Education Screening Committee, and was elected by the division to serve on the reformed Curriculum Committee (her work on this committee during the second semester has given her a much greater familiarity with the nuts and bolts of many of the courses taught outside her own department).

She served on a cross-disciplinary committee to conduct assessment of the First-Year Writing program and a departmental sub-committee to interpret assessment results. She taught two courses that underwent some revision this spring: *The Shelleys and The Gothic Imagination*, to which she added novels by Matthew Lewis and Margaret Atwood.

In December, she was granted a sabbatical for the spring semester of 2006 to do research and writing on nineteenth-century female novels of development, with a special focus on the work of Frances Burney.

**Dr. Susan Stone, Assistant Professor of English**, enjoyed an active fourth year at Loras. She taught American Literature, African American Literature, Honors Service Learning, College Writing, Democracy & Global Diversity, and a new Advanced Gen Ed course, *Legal Eagles: Law in American Film and Literature*. As an Advisor, Dr. Stone found this school year especially rewarding because she got to work with her 42 wonderful advisees.

In addition to her teaching and mentoring, Dr. Stone won a Faculty Development Grant enabling her to conduct research at Harvard's Houghton Library. She also had a proposal accepted to lead a NEH workshop on writing and rhetoric in nineteenth century historically black colleges and universities, and she submitted an article on Olivia Ward-Bush Banks to the forthcoming Greenwood Press collection, *African American Women Writers: An A-Z Guide*. She is currently organizing a panel for the SSAWW (Society for the Study of American Women Writers).

Dr. Stone's Loras service involvements included being an Advisor for Habitat for Humanity, the Literary Society, and the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority. She also continued to serve on three Loras committees: TLTR, Faculty Development, and Friends of the Library, and she helped to coordinate the student writers at the Sinipee Writers' Workshop this spring. Last July, she attended

the Summer Institute for First-Year Assessment, and is currently helping the Loras First-Year Program develop, conduct, and evaluate its own assessment.

**Charlotte Ulve, English Instructor**, will face the unique challenge of working with first-year students. After many years of teaching 100 and 200-level courses in basic composition at Loras, she is no stranger to the main concepts taught in *Steps to Writing Well*. In fact, after responding to thousands of pages of assigned essays and articles, she feels qualified to say that what most beginning college students need in the way of improving their writing is practice and more practice. To that end, she plans to continue using the well-known Wyrick text, but will amend her syllabi for Composition Skills to include options for *Writing about Visual Imagery*. Given the fact that visuals are increasingly integrated into text intended for classroom resources, both in print and online, Ms. Ulve feels that younger students can benefit greatly from such supplemental coursework because of its potential to improve critical analysis and clarify point of view.

To remain current with available technology and to stay in touch with other English Department members who are teaching writing courses at all levels, she attended two on-campus seminars on Making the Most of Blackboard and participated in Loras' bi-annual Portfolio Assessment Workshop.

To keep abreast of changes in the publishing world and to learn more about the dynamic between agents and editors, she also attended a mid-winter writers' conference chaired by Anne Hawkins, literary agent for John Hawkins & Associates, N.Y.C.

An avid reader, she lists these titles among her personal favorites so far this year: Tom Wolfe's *I Am Charlotte Simmons* and the new edition of Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

To improve advanced educational opportunities for deserving women, Ulve served on the scholarship committee for a local service organization which, through its "Lighting the Path of the Next Generation" fund-raising campaign, awarded honored recipients \$10,000 each to further their studies in 2004-05.

**Dr. Ray Wilson, Professor of English**, presented a paper at Harvard University on Ethics in Literature at the Phenomenology and Literature Association meeting. The paper has been accepted for publication. He received a Summer Research Grant from the Faculty Development Committee to attend the Bloom's Day activities in Dublin, Ireland, in June of 2004. James Joyce set his novel *Ulysses* on June 16, 1904, and June 16, 2004 was the one-hundredth anniversary of the date. An entire week's events celebrated the novel. The trip allowed him to immerse himself in the locales of Joyce's writing, including plunging into the Irish Sea at the "forty-foot hole" at eight A.M., just as some of the characters in the novel did. Ray also got to see places where many other Irish writers

lived, worked, and set their works. At his own expense, he added a trip to Brussels, Belgium, with side trips to Amsterdam and Paris. In Paris, he found spots where Joyce lived and worked, as well as other authors such as Lawrence Durrell. Also, he visited the Waterloo battlefield that James Joyce used as the background for a section of *Finnegans Wake*, where he got some insights to help interpret the episode. In August he presented a paper at Oxford University at the World Congress of Phenomenology. His paper, based on Joyce, defended the concept of creativity against the challenge to its existence posed by contemporary literary theory. This paper, too, will be published. Living at Oxford college for five days was a thrill in itself, as well as immersing him in an atmosphere that occurs in countless British novels and plays in his field. He got to see a couple of plays in London before the conference began, adding to the benefit of the trip.

A suspicion might arise that all this travel might make teaching at Loras again somewhat anti-climactic. It's the reverse! Teaching his Major Author course on Joyce this fall and British Fiction 1900 to the Present with works by Durrell in the Spring were much more exciting when he could bring up the experiences of the actual places described in the works. The enthusiasm even carried over to his section of Writing Skills, Democracy and Global Diversity, and his two clusters—one on ethics in literature, and one on Russian fiction. Even his service on the Faculty Development Committee has been more exciting than in the past because of the overall enthusiasm generated by his summer activities. Ray's main duty on this committee is organizing the Faculty Student Research Colloquium in May, where students who have participated in research or creative activities present posters of their work. This highly positive event should cap off a truly wonderful year.

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Home page: <http://depts.loras.edu/eng/>

Your former professors are waiting to hear from you! And if you'd like to make your e-mail address available to other Loras grads, send a note to Dr. Koch and we'll include it in next year's *Newsletter*.

**Becky Barnhart (BA '96, MA '02)** "I accepted a Project Editor position at Carlisle Communications in September 2004 and recently took on the challenge of becoming the training person for all new Project Editors. I continue to write and study haiku."

**Tricia Behnke (BA '98, MA '02)** "I've owned my condo now for over two years, and I still love it. I'm the Secretary of the condo association board, and we've been really busy with a lot of maintenance and capital improvements. I achieved CPIM (Certified in Production and Inventory Management) certification in November 2004. I enjoy spending time with my "little" sister as part of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program—we were matched in January, so we're still finding out a lot about each other. I'm still working at John Deere, but I moved to a new position within supply management in March. In short, keeping busy!"

**Rev. John Bertogli ('73)** Fr. John is newly assigned as Pastor of St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines, Iowa, working with a staff of six and serving the parish of 800 families. St. Ambrose is a widely diversified community which also serves Holy Family Grade School, a regional school supported by four of the local parishes who send students to the school. Fr. John has spent the past six years in Council Bluffs. He asks for our prayers in this transition and sends his to us.

**Andrea Bongert ('01)** Andrea tells us she works long hours massaging at The Looking Glass in Asbury, IA. She hopes to some day open her own business.

**Susan (McGee) Breed ('87)** Sue is one faithful Christmas correspondent! She has a busy family with their (husband John) careers at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines. Children Josh (8) and Tyler (10) love school and are active in sports. Sue still helps out at church, and they take fantastic vacations: Disney World, Sea World and Clearwater Beach, the Caribbean, Mexico, and Chicago (Cubs included). A new home may be in the offing with a larger lot purchase just down the street. Add a new kitten Coca to present kitty Caramel and you see why life is busy for the Breeds!

**Lisa (Kieffer) Breitsprecker ('03)** "Things have been eventful! I've graduated with my MSE in Counselor Education, and I have been offered the K-8 counseling position in Galena! Nate and I were married on June 11, and the next week traveled to Riveria Maya, Mexico, for 8 days! We scaled Chichen Itza! I was happy to see everyone who attended our wedding. It's all so exciting and wonderful . . . we are very thankful! On June 23 our new house was officially ours, and we can't wait to have visitors! lisakieffer@hotmail.com."

**Gina Burkart ('94)** "I'm having a busy semester teaching 6 courses at 3 different schools—it is challenging, but rewarding. I also have 3 very active children: Adam 11, Brianna 9, and Emma 7. The three of them keep us entertained.

This spring, my book *A Parent's Guide to Harry Potter* will come out in bookstores through InterVarsity Press. That has been an exciting, yet challenging project. Writing a book is much like childbirth. It begins with much passion, and then gives way to labor and pain. Once you give birth to it, you are very cautious about sending it out into the world." (Note from Donna: today, July 4th, I heard Gina Burkart on NPR, being interviewed about her book which is now in bookstores!)

**Susan (Parsons) Cain ('95)** "I've taken a leave from the graphic design industry, though am still writing and freelancing for a few different companies. I am compiling a book of short stories and am very near to having them completed.

My husband Matt and I have just recently moved to the big city of Detroit where he's working as Director of Orthotics and Prosthetics for a home health care company. We have a darling little house just north of the city with a front porch and flower garden. Matt was very active in Wisconsin with the Democratic campaign, and we've both developed a passion for attending every peace march and joining each peace group we run across. Other than that we spend time biking, hiking, meeting people, traveling, working on our new house, and taking care of the four spoiled babies (cats) Oscar, Russell, Mona, and baby Simon."

**Cathy Canning ('83)** Cathy Canning successfully completed her Masters Degree in May of 2004. Currently she is teaching Advanced Placement English at Porter High School in Brownsville, Texas, where she resides with her son, Elijah. In addition to Advanced Placement classes, Cathy's degree allows her to teach Dual Enrollment classes of Composition I and II whereby qualified students can earn both high school and college credit.

Cathy recently published a book titled *Unknown Tomorrows: A Caregiver's Guide to Companioning the Seriously Ill*. Cathy found a method of publication that was both inexpensive and that did not require an agent—she self-published through LULU.com. The book is now available at Amazon.Com and BarnesandNoble.com.

**Yumi (Konishi) Carlson ('89)** sends Christmas greetings each year. She tells us that her and Steve's children, Erika and Nils, "are doing really well at school. Erika plays the viola and competed in a math tournament for her middle school. Nils started playing chess and he loves it. Last summer, Joe and Carol Schaefer visited Japan and I could see them there with Chiyo [Konishi] and our parents. I also saw Midori Hatanaka (from Osaka)."

**Jenna CrewBeyer ('04)** "I worked as a Spanish/English teacher at a charter school in Brooklyn Park, MN and learned as much in one year as I learned in 5 yrs. of college. But for all of you aspiring teachers out there I wouldn't recommend a start up school! Now I'm off to recover and live life in parentheses for a year in El Paso, Texas, with my little sister who is starting a midwife program."

**Olga (Possokhova) Cullinan ('03)** This past year has been extremely busy for Olga! She has been working as a Title I Tutor of Reading and English at Solano Elementary school, Phoenix, AZ. During the summer vacation she works as a Tutor for the Huntington Learning Center, AZ. She and her husband, Ryan, are anxiously waiting to move into their first house (hopefully, by mid-August). More importantly, Olga is getting ready to start a new semester at college, as she's been accepted to the Masters Program of Russian/Slavic Languages Department at the University of Arizona. She will pursue a degree in Language, Literature, and Culture, and has future plans for a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. Her e-mail address is: tuapeaches@yahoo.com.

**Allyson DelDebbio ('04)** "Right now I am in my second semester of graduate school at Benedictine University in Lisle, IL. For the summer, I am working as a special education aide in a middle school classroom in Naperville. School is going great . . . I love being back in the classroom. I taught my first lesson to a class of seniors at a Catholic school in Aurora, IL. I decided to cover Christina Rossetti's "Goblin Market"—which ended up taking three days. The girls loved the poem, though, and I felt pretty good for my first experience in front of the class."

**Jay DiBenedetto ('96)** "I am still teaching at Winnebago, Illinois, High School, teaching freshman and junior English, as well as publications (students put out the yearbook, write for a local paper, and put together a news show). My most important news is that I was married last summer to Jennifer Joyner who works at Associated Bank. We moved into a new house in Winnebago and welcomed our honeymoon baby into our new home. Her name is Grace Jennifer and she is currently 8 weeks old and growing like a weed!" Jay's e-mail is cubsfan2000@msn.com.

**Michelle (Ruggaber) Dougherty ('98)** "In August I started my first year as a 'real' professor at Ohio Dominican University. Since I spent the last two years finishing my doctoral research, but not teaching, it felt great to be back in the classroom. And now, in May, it feels even better to be finished with my first year! My husband and I will spend this summer trying to learn Italian, since we're going to be teaching in ODU's study abroad program in Rome during the fall semester. We're very excited to go!"

**Patricia Forrest (MA '05)** completed her orals and received her MA in June of 2005. Along with studying and working, she has been renovating an old house which 100 years ago was a neighborhood store.

**Carrie Gehl (MA '04)** "I taught English/Language Arts at Holy Family Catholic Schools for four years. The last three years I taught seventh and eighth grade at Resurrection School. I currently plan to take some time off from teaching to spend time with my family, especially my daughter, Anna. She is sassy but very fun—I love it! She is destined to NOT be a wallflower."

**Connie (DeTaeye) Ghinazzi ('78)** Connie writes: "We had a calm year in our immediate family; everyone is healthy and getting an education from teachers or students. But 2004 has been a year of both great joy and sorrow among close friends and family. These tumultuous events have given Craig, Anne, Tom, and me reasons to be mindful of what is important in our family, our community, and our country. Anne is now 22, a senior at Augustana College, majoring in psychology. Tom, 17, is a junior at Daventryport Central where he is thinking about college and combining his culinary interest with a new passion for journalism. Craig has taken his fitness regimen in a new direction, adding yoga and Pilates to his previous program. I still mostly read, walk, quilt, play bridge, and plan to exercise. There is always something more intriguing than going to the gym."

**Amber Gille ('05)** graduated from Loras in May of this year. She writes: "I am currently employed at Pearson Educational Measurement in Iowa City working with standardized tests for different state departments of education throughout the U.S." Amber spent many of her spare hours working for Carlisle Communications during her years at Loras College. She enters the work world well-seasoned in experience.

**Emily Griskavich ('03)** shares these thoughts: "I love the elementary school where I work, G. D. Jones Elementary School in Wausau, Wisconsin, just north of Stevens Point. I want to work another year there and then go to UW Wisconsin or UW Milwaukee grad school for my school library certificate. My boyfriend Diego's Dubuque internship is ending in June, and he plans to move back to his native Chicago—even farther from me than he is now! He will look for jobs in Madison and Milwaukee, though, because that's where my two favorite grad schools are."

**Tracy Heims ('89)** "I am still in Seattle practicing law. I started my own practice about three years ago and am still struggling and probably will for the next couple of years. Sorry to hear of Doc Clark's passing. I loved that guy."

**Lisa Higgs ('97)** continues to work at the Minnesota Historical Society during the week and write poetry on the weekends. A few new publications here and there, but no book deals are looming on the horizon. Of course, an actual manuscript might help a bit. She continues to read voraciously (and highly recommends Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* if only to clear the cobwebs), garden when the weather permits, and walk or jog with her dog, Bishop. The next year is bound to bring significant change, though, as Lisa and Toby are expecting the arrival of their first child in late October.

**Emily Hiscocks ('03)** "I will be teaching at Clear Lake Middle School, which is closer to home so I will only drive 10 minutes to work. I am also the Head Varsity Volleyball Coach and the 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach."

**Ryan Hughes ('00)** “Well, I got accepted to several different law schools and ended up deciding on Drake in Des Moines where I begin August 15th. What did I decide to do in the meantime? I contacted the lads I used to work with in Ireland. So, now here I sit back in Ireland. I quit my desk job to pull drink and mop toilets for a couple of months before law school. But I love it back in Cork. I have gotten back into hikes on cliffs above ocean. My little sister Helen is studying in Italy for the summer so she stopped here on way over, and we went on some hikes and caught a match. My brother Jason’s wife sent him over for his birthday.”

**Brian Kallback (BA '02, MA '04)** “Hello to all! I just finished my first year of teaching at Cascade Jr./Sr. High School and am ready to begin the Loras All-Sports Camp in a few days. Tammy and I bought a house near Hempstead and are enjoying all the tasks the house requires. Our daughter, a two-year-old dog named Winnie, is keeping us on our toes. We just got back from my first half-marathon in Madison, so my wife is definitely having an influence on me! Hope all are well!”

**Bernard Kennedy, OFM ('81)** was elected to the leadership council for the Franciscan Friars Minor of the Assumption BVM Province located in Franklin, Wisconsin. Father Bernard will be leaving his work as Director of Campus Ministry and instructor in theology to assume his new duties. Father Bernard was named Provincial Director of Formation and Studies. He will supervise all levels of Franciscan formation and courses of studies for postulants, novices, the simply professed, and friars in priestly formation. He is Director of the Post-Novitiate and will mentor the friar students studying at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) at Hyde Park on Chicago’s south side.

**Dianne (MA '00) and Kevin Koch ('81)** For Kevin’s special news, see *Faculty in Focus*. Here’s the rest of the story: Dianne has a new teaching job at Dubuque Senior High School: World Literature, Composition, and British Literature. Son Paul began attending Loras College in the fall of 2004 and “spent his time studying computer science and trying to avoid his dad on campus.” Brian had a great track season at Wahlert. He ran in the Drake Relays and the state track meet as well. In his second year on the varsity cross country team they took first place in the 3-A state meet. Angie plays softball and volleyball at St. Columbkille’s and delights in science fair projects involving paper airplanes. She is also an avid reader.

**Amy Kohlstedt ('03)** “I just finished the Masters of Library Science Program at the University of Iowa in May, and will continue working at the University of Iowa Main Library in the Interlibrary Loan Department through the summer. Right now I am searching for a full-time job in either a public or small academic library, so I’ve been spending a lot of time with applications and getting my name out. I’m excited to finally get the chance to use the training I’ve had in my field at the professional level.”

**Edie A. Huss Kuhle (MA '05)** is currently working as the Director of Campus Safety and Security at Loras College. Big news: “I was married on Nov. 6, 2004, to Tom Kuhle. I now have three stepsons, ages 21, 18, 16 and my son who is 13. The 18-year-old will become a Duhawk this fall.”

**Tricia (Fawcett) Lipski ('98)** “Our son, Joseph, turned 3 in April and is an amazing child. He wants to know “why?” about everything, and also wants to know what everything “says.” He is very smart, and great at listening and repeating—it’s scary to hear some things coming out of his mouth that he’s heard other places (I’m afraid that will come back to haunt me somehow)!! I have been practicing law here in Washington, IA, for nearly four years. Tony is an Agent Account Executive with U.S. Cellular.

We’ve become involved with the Iowa SIDS Foundation since our son Jacob’s death in January of this year, and will continue to support their mission of support, advocacy, and research to unlock the mystery of SIDS. We’ve appreciated the support from our Loras “family” through all this—the outpouring of cards, letters, calls, e-mails, and (especially) prayers from campus and all over the country have been wonderful. It reminds us again what a special place Loras was and is to us.” Tonytricialipski@yahoo.com

**Kathleen R. Loewenberg (BA '87, MA '97)** “I am on my eleventh year with McGraw-Hill Publishers and still loving what I do. After spending all of my time working with environmental science, ecology, and botany authors, last summer I changed title lists and am now a Developmental Editor for anatomy and physiology textbooks. Our son, Christopher, is getting married this summer to Valerie Otto (both of them are also Loras alums). This is a joyous occasion, and we are looking forward to having a daughter in the family. We hope for lots of grandchildren. Roger and I are adjusting fine to being empty-nesters, except that we’d like more vacation time and money to travel! We like to take long weekend trips and explore the hiking, canoeing, and biking trails in the Midwest. When not on the road, I like to read and garden; I find it very satisfying to grow our own food. I recently learned basket-weaving (seriously) and found it lots of fun. I now have a jazzy little basket to take to the Farmer’s Market to hold my Fincel’s corn.”

**Peggy Lucas ('03)** “I have been working at McGraw-Hill as a project manager in Dubuque for over a year now and feel very lucky to have an interesting job that surrounds me with amazing people. I work with authors and editors around the globe, and I take great pride in making inspiring ideas into a tangible textbook for many to learn from and appreciate. Challenges find me every day. I also enjoy living downtown Dubuque amidst the revitalization and new energy that is growing practically every day. I also feel very fortunate to have been able to watch my nephew, Ian, grow into a rambunctious and ingenious (okay—I’m a little biased) 18-month-old, while my sister attends Loras College.”

**Bridget Lulay ('01)** "I'm still a Production Editor at Thomson Delmar Learning, but I was recently recruited as the only production person on our new "Health Care Professional Business Unit" where I'll be managing all aspects of production on an up-and-coming suite of online training, continuing education, reference, and patient education courses for hospital and clinical staff. We have an aggressive course load lined up, but it's a wonderful growth opportunity for me and has already taught me a whole new side of publishing.

Other, more exciting and personal news . . . My boyfriend, Mike, got me one of the best Christmas presents ever . . . An American Eskimo PUPPY! We got the pick of the litter, so of course I picked the friskiest, cutest one and named him Iggy Lou (Get it? Igloo because he's an Eskimo!). He's now 8 months old and is about as big as he's going to get, weighing in at about 25 pounds. He's a hoot and a wonderful companion!" (See photo, pg. 10.)

**Cara Lynch ('01)** "Hola, amigos! Just a short note to let you know I'm doing quite well. So much of my life has been wrapped up in the international school and the pollution and poverty of San Pedro Sula that the tranquilo parts of Honduras were often skipped. These past few months I've realized many important aspects of this culture, and I've found coves of paradise in the land and people of the rural areas. A Colombian lady we met said she could not believe the poverty here, that Honduras is one of the poorest places she's ever seen. In many ways, this place is also the richest one will ever see, a nature lover's paradise and a rich man's dream for profit seeking. It wreaks havoc on one's conscience and drives one to trust in change. I don't know where this experience will lead me, but I do know it's made me a stronger person." (See photo, page 10.)

**Mary Kay (Moser) Lynch ('77)** keeps in yearly Yule touch. They, too, love to travel: Palm Desert, California, Phoenix and Prescott, Arizona. Son Patrick actually got on stage at *The Tonight Show* and they have a family pic with Jay Leno to prove it! This trip helped celebrate Patrick's high school graduation, a culmination, according to Patrick as "the best month of my life!"

**Melanie Mausser ('00)** "Yes, I'm still in Arizona—the Prescott area to be exact, though I live in a little Dyersville-sized town called Chino Valley. Still playing my original songs at open mic night and I'm hoping to get a demo. put together by the end of the summer if I can find some dedicated musicians to work with me. I have been exercising a lot lately and joined the gym—a fascinating experience for an artist such as myself! Last weekend I ran the Whiskey Row 10K which was mostly an uphill battle, but I did pretty well. Now that spring is here I'm hoping to do some more horseback riding. All of my friends have horses; it just seems like none of them ever ride! We also will go to a lot more rodeos. "

**Jackie McGonagle ('04)** "adopted" English Major! "On Friday, May 20th, I graduated my first class of kinder-

garteners. I was a little teary-eyed, but I couldn't have been more proud as I flipped each of their tassels and passed out their diplomas. Rob Lagoni and I are still chugging along with our wedding plans. The wedding is getting closer, just about a year away now. During the summer, I will be teaching in the four-year-old room at Children's Campus and preparing for my incoming kindergarteners this fall."

**Lori (O'Brien) Moriarity ('89)** writes of their family vacation to California: "All six of us walked across the Golden Gate Bridge and back; we hiked through parks; we combed the beaches. How Quinn loved the cable cars. How Dan (husband) loved coming home to his own bed. Poor man married a gypsy!" Snippets of the other children: "Daniel is as bright as ever. Griffin is turning into a boy. Each one seems to grow up faster. Tess is her own independent self, determined to have her own image!" Lori keeps incredibly busy, but still wonders about entering the "job force" once Griffin starts pre-school. In addition to resurrecting her actuarial skills, she thinks of teaching.

**Kyle Neiss ('04)** is at Johnsbury High School, teaching Freshman and Sophomore English, and 2 Lab Classes. He is also coaching varsity football and baseball. Kyle has sent a few students in the direction of Loras. He writes: "Teaching is going great. I have transitioned very well, and all my students are great. I love the subject matter. I am teaching Whitman right now to my sophomores."

**Carol Odam (MA '74)** Carol wrote at Christmas: "With the church of 420 great, thoughtful people and our four kids, two cats and one dog, I seem to be forever wishing I had time to really read. Chris continues to teach inner city high school. Laura is a social worker and finishing her R.N. Gerry is doing Secondary English at William Jewell and Ben is enjoying tennis."

**Theresa O'Donnell ('02)** "Things are going well. I have a few more months in Vermont as a VISTA volunteer coordinating a mentoring program for area teens. It has been a really good experience. I am amazed at all Spectrum does for homeless and otherwise troubled youth. My wedding is officially less than a year away. Chris and I plan to move closer to home when my service is up. I am looking for university jobs in diversity, student activities, and event planning in central Illinois and in the St. Louis area."

**Emily Pringle ('02)** "I am still working at Youth Progress Association as a case manager for boys on parole/probation. I am training for a triathlon in July, so it's probably about time that I learn how to swim. I've kind of overlooked that part of it! We are also training for the Portland Marathon in October. It's going to be a *long* run! We (my sister Marne and I) just got a new dog named Charley who is an Australian Shepherd mix. He came from a rescue program and is so cute, except when he breaks free and runs wild around the neighborhood at 6AM. We kind of have to tackle him in order to get him to come back since he thinks it's the most fun game ever and will run in circles

around us forever. Hopefully I can get him trained to where he can hike with me off-leash. Somehow the idea of chasing him up Mt. Hood doesn't sound like a great time." (See photo, page 10.)

**Jennifer Reding ('03)** is now engaged to Don Bloomquist, an engineer at John Deere (see photo, page 10). She writes, "After our marriage at Nativity Church in Dubuque on June 24, 2006, we will be living in Waterloo. He asked my parents permission to marry me in March and everyone kept it a secret for months! My mom said it was the hardest thing she has ever had to do! I am teaching high school Spanish in Independence, IA."

**Robin (Slaght) Reed ('03)** tells us that after graduation, she stayed in the Dubuque area and began working at Carlisle Communications as a Project Editor. In November of 2004, she decided to try her hand at Development, a budding area for the company. Recently, she was promoted to the head of the Development Team at Carlisle.

As an undergraduate in 2002, Robin married her high school sweetheart, Mike Reed. They welcomed an addition to their family in the spring of 2005. Camille Anne Reed was born on May 2. (See photo, pg. 10.) The family plans to stay in Dubuque and raise a few Duhawks of their own.

**Rachel Rickertson ('04)** "I am finishing my year of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA in Madison, WI, where I have been working at Edgewood College to promote and assist in the implementation of civic engagement events and service-learning courses. I have become much more knowledgeable about the barriers facing people in low-income situations, I have learned about the nonprofit world, and my idealism is now balanced with a little more realism. In August, I begin medical school at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and I am both excited and anxious. While there, I plan to continue with my service to the community through volunteer opportunities throughout the year and possible global medicine opportunities next summer."

**Jeremy Saluka ('97)** writes "I recently accepted a position with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) mission to Serbia and Montenegro. My two-year contract as Senior Development Outreach and Communications Specialist will see me directing media relations, public relations and external communication strategy for the USAID mission based in Belgrade.

Pending our medical and security clearances, we anticipate leaving the U.S. within the next three months. Until then, we will remain in Milwaukee to sell our house and prepare for the relocation." Jeremy and Nicole's e-mail address will be jeremy.salucka@gmail.com

**Kevin Shelton ('91)** "This first year principal ship has been awesome, but unbelievably busy and time consuming. I am coaching my oldest son's baseball team this summer.

Michael is 7 and is already up to his mom's shoulder. He is a great kid who looks after his little brother when he is not battling with him. He has made huge strides in reading this year, and it is a treat to come home from work to see him reading on the couch. Matthew, who is 5, will be going to kindergarten next year. Matthew would play sports all the time, if he had his choice. He loves football and everything that has anything to do with football. He does everything 'head first' and if the emergency room had a punch card, we would have qualified for frequent visitor prizes by now. Wendy continues to be a stay-at-home mom, and volunteers at Michael's school a few times a week. She also teaches CCD at St. Pat's in McHenry. She is the glue that keeps us together, and does an admirable job of staying 'sane' in a house full of 'boys.' "

**Nick Specht ('01)** tells us that since he made the decision to take the position at Barnstead International things have been in a constant whirlwind. His title is Regulatory Affairs Specialist. He's working with Rodney (Carroll) in import/export regulations to make sure that all of the lab products that are coming in or going out of the country comply with all relevant regulations.

**Michele (Anderegg) Stuhr ('98)** writes: "As of June 2005, I have completed my seventh year of teaching high school English and journalism classes at Webster City High School. As a life-long learner, I went back to school also. My research paper has already been approved, and I will graduate with a Masters Degree in Education this July. On a personal note, my husband, Cory, and I have been married nearly three years, and our son Jamin will turn 2 in October! (See photo, page 10.) Other than graduating, my summer will hopefully consist of discovering the world again (right along with Jamin) and taking the time to praise God for the gifts He has allowed me to share with those around me."

**Cressant Swarts ('02)** tells us: "I have a job I love, as the administrative assistant at the Marion [IA] Public Library. I will be starting classes in the fall for my graduate degree in Library Science. I'm also starting a small jewelry-making business, which has proven to be a great creative outlet. The website will be [www.bluecrescentcreations.com](http://www.bluecrescentcreations.com) when I finish building the site, hopefully by the end of the summer. I have a very full life, which I share with a wonderful partner. Life is good."

**Celia Venhuizen ('04)** "After moving back to Madison, Wisconsin, from northern Virginia in June of 2004, I spent the summer seeking employment. I began working as a Sales Writer for Epic Systems Corporation in the fall. Epic is a software company that develops and installs medical records software for large healthcare organizations. My position involves doing industry and political research and writing for the small, but dynamic sales department. A few Loras grads already work here, and I hope to see more join us over time. Moving back to Madison has made it possible to spend lots of time with family and friends, for which I am

truly grateful. I am enjoying my new job even though it is challenging at times. I am right now drafting a ‘training manual’ of sorts for new sales people.”

**A.J. Walter (Alice Jane) (MA '78)** “Life is rather un-complicated at the moment. I did a considerable amount of sub work this past year and enjoyed stretching the brain cells. I learned that English teachers seldom are ill or take personal days. Now just what does that imply! Our grandson Will recently graduated from Andrew High School as Salutatorian of his class. When I took the Mark Twain course on the river and to Hannibal, Will made the trip with me. He will attend Iowa State University in Ag studies. Next grandson will be a junior. It’s fun to watch them in their many activities. Hoping for a Panama Canal Cruise in late November.”

**Lindsey Weers ('04)** “My main accomplishment is completing the Coca-Cola Zero Rock 'N Roll San Diego marathon last weekend and raising \$4000 for the fight against cancer for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Other than that, I have been working in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society office organizing participants to raise money for the mission. I am also working at Hy-Vee as a bookkeeper. I am applying for other jobs and am taking a year off school to decide what area I want to pursue.”

**Catherine (Wegmann) Wilson ('99)** Cathy writes: “Our new home in is Cedar Rapids (for now, anyway, until we can pony up the financing to buy that 20-acre log cabin resort at the foot of Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado). Allen continues his career at Rockwell Collins and I’m working as the Academic Coordinator for the Academic Achievement Program at Coe College.” (See page 10 for a wedding photo!)

**Tim Wuebker ('90)** “Well, I completed my marathon on 5/21. You can see all of the slowpokes and geezers I beat at olathemarathon.com. This is for all of you people who think I’ve been making the whole thing up. I ranked #229. What an awesome experience!!”

Tim is still teaching English and high school math. You can reach him at timwuebker@hotmail.com.

months after,  
 your empty shaving cabinet  
 still smelling of aftershave

the autumn leaves  
 melting orange  
 into my hair

Amber Gille, *Alpha*

## Atkins Retires, (continued from page 1)

Her genuine interest in how others are teaching literature has always encouraged me to learn more about what she is doing, too.

**Dr. Don Kniefel** Dorothy and I both started teaching in the English department the same year, 1978, and we have been friends since then. I have many memories of Dorothy in conversations at work, but my most vivid recollections are from her time as Chair of the department. She had a leadership style based on respect for fellow colleagues, cooperation, and a give-and-take attitude. Dorothy has been a serious, devoted student of literature, a caring teacher, and a voice of reason in our department.

**Dr. Kevin Koch** I have always enjoyed trading teaching ideas with Dr. Atkins, and I particularly remember the semester in which she had each of her Shelley Seminar students take on the role of a different member of the Shelley family throughout the semester. Likewise, in this past semester she played the role of Queen Victoria one class session, amidst the Industrial Revolution and the Luddite revolt.

Dr. Atkins’ calm demeanor has often helped students and faculty look past the crisis of the day and focus on the long-range picture.

**Dr. Elizabeth Rashke** I first met Dr. Atkins when I was a student in the English masters program at Loras—I think it was 1979. She was teaching a class called Victorian Prose Writers, and at that time she must have been the rookie in the English department. She impressed me then, and still does—as a colleague, as a very gentle, soft-spoken person with a way of making students feel comfortable about learning.

**Dr. Susan Stone** Whenever Dr. Atkins’ name comes up, students smile. But Dr. Atkins has not only helped to explain the mysteries of British literature to hundreds of Loras students, she is also one of the most kind, thoughtful, and caring teachers and individuals I know, a truly genuine person. Her gentle ways, joy for learning, and friendly demeanor will definitely be missed.

**Charlotte Ulve** Over my years at Loras, I have been assigned office space directly across the hall from Dr. Atkins. In all that time, I have come to regard her as the consummate professional. Like countless others who have shared in her love for Wordsworth and Keats, I have been inspired by her professional classroom demeanor, her quiet yet highly capable leadership within the Division of Languages & Literature, and her scholarly, student-centered approach to teaching. In fact, it is the latter of these which is so evident in her open-door policy at # 530 Hoffmann. The fact that Dr. Atkins is always accessible to her students and supportive of their efforts is readily apparent.

**Dr. Raymond Wilson** I had the luck to meet Dorothy Atkins, I suspect, before anyone else at Loras. I had just gotten my Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Nebraska had just given me a non-tenure-line Instructorship, teaching 12 hours of freshman English, when Dorothy arrived as a Ph.D. student and Graduate Assistant teacher. Eventually, Dorothy got her job at Loras, and we kept in touch. I heard good things about Loras from her through the years. One day I saw an ad for a position at Loras in my field. One reason that made me eager to apply at Loras was the chance to teach at the place I had envisioned from Dorothy’s comments. Another was the chance to be on a faculty with Dorothy again. Things turned out exactly as I suspected they would, and I want to thank Dorothy for her contribution to that atmosphere.



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# HOMEcoming 2005



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ALUMNI BREAKFAST

OCTOBER 15, 2005 9:30 AM

CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING, ALUMNI CAMPUS CENTER

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

SARAH BLOSCH, CARRIE GEHL, BRIAN KALLBACK, PAUL KILGORE,  
DIANNE KOCH, GEORGIANA LANCASTER, AND JANE NORTHRUP

COME AND JOIN US AND VISIT WITH FELLOW  
ENGLISH MAJORS AND PROFESSORS.