

The Loras College English Newsletter



LORAS COLLEGE

Becky J. Barnhart, Editor
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Donna Bauerly, Ph.D., Professor of English, Coordinator
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Department Gains New Faculty Member

by Maggie McNair ('07)

This coming fall semester, Loras College will welcome Jean Merrill to the English Department as a new professor. Originally from Minnesota, Professor Merrill received her bachelor's degree from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, a Lutheran liberal arts school. Similar to Loras, Gustavus Adolphus has a small student body of 2,300. She then went on to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she received her Master's degree and will receive her PhD in December 2006. Professor Merrill has been teaching for eight years, including being an adjunct at Edgewood College, a small Catholic college in Madison. There she realized that she wanted to teach at a smaller school such as Loras.



In addition to a traditional interview, the English Department offered the opportunity for the candidates for the position to show their teaching skill with Loras students and faculty in a teaching demonstration. Unfortunately, she was scheduled to present on a day in February when classes were cancelled due to snow, but she was able to present the following day. In the two days she was here, Professor Merrill had the opportunity to check out the campus and spend time with the English faculty. She had the opportunity to chat with some students and talked about how she used to "tray" down the hills of her college in Minnesota, but they were not as fortunate to have hills that led into a field. They only had hills that led to streets. I asked her if we should look for her next first snowfall and she laughed (not a confirmed yes or no). Besides commenting on our great sledding hills, she also commented that the students were great and that it is a beautiful campus in a great town.

This fall, Merrill will be teaching Medieval and Renaissance Literature as well as Gothic Imagination. She is especially looking forward to the challenge of teaching first-year students in College Writing. Her area of specialty is Renaissance Literature and she is hoping to teach many sections of Shakespeare in the future. Her favorite Shakespearean play is one of his later works, *Cymbeline*, a mix between a romance, comedy and tragedy. Her favorite book in her field is Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene* and has an old favorite from high school, *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.

Welcome, Professor Merrill!

Brimeyer 2005 Iowa Professor of the Year

by Robin Kennicker ('06)

Last fall, Jim Brimeyer, a Loras BA, MA graduate, was named the 2005 Iowa Professor of the year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. This prestigious award honors educational leaders across the country who are nominated by their campuses. Brimeyer shines as one of 40 educators chosen nationwide from 400 nominations, with contenders from every other higher education institution in Iowa.



This isn't the first award Brimeyer has received. Others include: 2004—Iowa State University Educational Leadership Award; 2003—NICC Extra Effort Award; 2001—Iowa Literacy Award for Contributions to Literacy & Learning in the State of Iowa (Iowa Writing Project & Iowa Council of Teachers of English); 1999—National Council of Instructional Administrators Award for Community College Exemplary Initiatives for NICC—High School Writing Seminar; 1997—Phi Delta Kappa International Chapter Newsletter Editor's Award; 1997—NISOD Teaching Excellence Award, University of Texas, Austin; 1996 University of Notre Dame Award for Contributions to Education; 1991—University of Northern Iowa College of Education Dean's Award for Distinguished Writing on Pedagogy by an Iowa English Teacher; 1989—University of Chicago Outstanding Teacher Award; 1988—State of Iowa Outstanding Teacher Award. Even though this list of accomplishments is quite impressive, Jim Brimeyer remains a very humble person. He credits much of his success to his connections with Loras College. When he was a sophomore in high school, Bernie O'Connor, an English teacher at Wahlert High School and former Loras graduate, inspired Brimeyer so tremendously that at fifteen years of age he says, "I knew right then I wanted to become an English teacher." After completing high school, Brimeyer continued his education at Loras where he earned his BA in 1969 and his MA in 1976.

Brimeyer was encouraged by Sister Pat Nolan, who at that time was head of the department, to continue his college education by achieving a Master's degree. Teaching English at Wahlert High School and taking night classes at Loras proved to be most advantageous, Brimeyer admits, because while he was teaching he was also "being modeled on how to teach by a *master*": Donna Bau-

(continued on page 19)

Loras DES Winners Stand Out Nationally

by Amy Brueggemann ('06)

Here at Loras College, there exists a National Honor Society that has been around since the early 1940s. Most have heard its distinguished title, Delta Epsilon Sigma, and are aware of our own recognized Alpha Chapter. But what many people might not be aware of is some of the remarkable accomplishments of its current members. Just recently, DES members Megan Campana ('07) and Stephanie Theisen ('06) received a national scholarship and a fellowship from the society.

Every year, twelve awards are given nationally from both of these categories. The twelve Fitzgerald Scholarships are awarded to a junior member, giving \$1,000 to be used for tuition for the senior year, and the twelve Fitzgerald Fellowships giving \$1,000 to a senior member for further graduate study. DES Alpha Chapter Moderator and Associate Professor of Mathematics Marlene Pinzka comments, "Students in our Alpha chapter have been receiving these awards for the past few years, and they should feel extremely honored. We truly stand out from all the other chapters in the nation."

There are currently 119 chapters that are a part of the Delta Epsilon Sigma National Honor Society. Out of the 24 total awards given, these two Loras students have been recognized. But what exactly are they being recognized for? These awards are based on academic excellence, a service component, and financial need, all of which are expressed in a personal essay when the member applies for the award.

Along with the DES scholarships and fellowships, there is an additional DES National Student award given out once a year to one student in every chapter. This award requires a 3.0–4.0 GPA and evidence of scholarly research or high graduate testing scores. The member is first nominated by a committee within the chapter, and then notified before the selection is sent on to the national office. Pinzka hinted that the Alpha Chapter already has an idea of who will receive the award this year, but was not yet ready to announce the member at this time. (Editor's update: Kathleen Glady received the award.)

Besides standing out in areas such as academic excellence, many Loras students, (not necessarily DES members) have also been recognized nationally in other areas, as they were in this year's annual DES-sponsored writing competition. For this event, Loras student Quentin Smith received a first prize of \$500 for his fiction piece, "Snake Skin," and Barbara Simon received the second place prize of \$250 for her poems, "To My Birthday," "February," and "Indian Summer." With the exception of one year, when there were no entries, Loras College has always had student winners, most of them first place.

Recently the student works were selected for Loras' 2006 edition of the DES Chapter magazine, *Alpha*. This publication, released in May, is just another way in which Loras students from all majors are able to display their many talents.

Two Largest Classes of English Majors

by Jennifer Childers ('06)

The numbers of English majors at Loras College are dramatically increasing. The English program typically graduates 20 to 30 students combined from both majors, but the upcoming junior and sophomore classes will increase that number. At the beginning of Spring 2006, the total number of Literature and Creative Writing majors was 84, which is an increase from 67 majors last year. There are 14 literature majors and 8 writing majors who graduated in 2005-2006, but looking forward to the next couple years the numbers will rise considerably. There are currently 24 juniors and 24 sophomores majoring in literature. The creative writing major includes 13 juniors and 17 sophomores.

As Chairman of the Division of Language and Literature, Dr. Kevin Koch partially credits the new general education curriculum for the increase of majors in the department. The new curriculum makes it easier for students to double major because it's easier to put four year plans in place. Some students majoring in English double major in: teacher education, politics, psychology, Spanish, public relations, social work, and chemistry. A student can also fit in a minor if they so choose.

Dr. Koch also credits the English faculty for the increase in numbers. He says, "I would be neglecting my English Department colleagues if I failed to say that we have a lot of English majors because students by and large like their English professors and courses. Our Program Review survey of majors indicated a high level of satisfaction with both professors and courses." It's key for faculty to speak with first year students to make them aware of possibilities in the English department. "I also want to keep in the forefront that we have academically and intellectually challenging majors in both our programs. Some students come to us because they wanted a program that was more intellectually stimulating. A college study a few years ago showed that, along with the sciences, English majors had among the highest-average ACT scores in the college," Dr. Koch explains.

Another key aspect of why students are looking toward English as a major is the opportunities they can experience while involved in the program. Students involved in the English program can also gain editorial experience and writing experience with *Outlet*, *Alpha*, *The Lorian*, *Delta Epsilon Sigma* Alpha Chapter Writing Contest, the *English Newsletter*, and other campus and alumni publications.

At the same time, the increase of English majors presents a predicament for faculty. The difficulty of how to work with high numbers in the future will be challenging, but it's still a good problem to have. Even though the increase in majors could be a temporary blip, the numbers for the next couple years definitely show the English department is healthy and growing stronger.

Calling All English Majors!

by Laura Coyne ('06)

Are you ready to apply your skills as an English major to something else besides as a student in the classroom? Then you're in luck! Many opportunities are out there waiting for you!

According to Jane Gassmann, the Center for Experimental Learning's Program Coordinator, English majors have participated in a number of different internships, including at the Center for Dubuque History, where an intern would be primarily involved with archival work. Also, interns have the opportunity to write an article concerning some aspect of the history of Dubuque and have it published in *Julien's Journal*, a local magazine providing historical information about Dubuque. Jane also mentioned that internships with publishing companies are the most popular.

Megan Lester and Hilary Hahn, both seniors, are currently interns at McGraw-Hill, Inc. Their main duty is to contact various professors around the world and ask if they would like to review specific textbooks the company is publishing. If they agree, Megan and Hilary send them review materials, and once professors provide feedback, Megan and Hilary put their answers together for the author of the textbook.

Both Megan and Hilary agree that they have had a positive experience, and it has prepared them for the real world. Megan states, ". . . I do think it has, because the things I do at McGraw-Hill are the exact same things that my boss and any other Developmental Editor do on a daily basis." Hilary says, "I have learned some of the responsibilities of being a professional in the real world—timeliness, friendliness, honesty, and professionalism as a whole."

Abby Quint, a junior, interns at another publishing company, Carlisle Publishing Services. She is an editorial assistant, and a typical day includes responding to any requests from others to help with projects, working with various project editors, and continuing to learn about the publishing business. Abby also considers this experience positive because she enjoys the work and the environment. She states, "I would continue this internship because it's both enjoyable and valuable as a learning experience."

If those particular internships do not sound appealing to you, there are other possibilities. Thomas McNamara, a junior, and Elizabeth Elsbernd, a sophomore, have been peer assistants for Dr. Bauerly's "Advanced Critical Writing" classes since spring semester of their respective first years. Liz says she wanted to become a peer assistant to help other students learn to read poetry and appreciate it as well as expand her own knowledge of these subjects. Their main duties as peer assistants include sending out e-mails to students regarding their assignments, giving feedback on students' papers, and meeting with students outside of class to address questions or concerns. Tom states, "I really enjoy providing feedback and conferencing, especially on critical writing assignments, because I get to help the students improve their writing and critical thinking skills," which he believes are essential for college-level writing success.

Liz remarks that she has gotten to know many great Loras students. She has become better at processing and synthesizing information herself by helping students with their writing. Tom says, "It is very rewarding to see a student grow in his or her writing throughout the semester." Tom and Liz would both tell students that if they are interested in this opportunity, they should take it.

Next semester, both Liz and Tom will be peer assistants for the Modes of Inquiry class. Liz wanted to try the MOI experience because she not only gets to work with first-year students, but she also gets to share the friendship of other MOI peer assistants. Tom decided to become an MOI peer assistant because it would enable him to work on a more interdisciplinary level and help students transition into college.

If you are interested in becoming an intern, keep in mind the qualities and skills recommended by current interns and peer assistants to confirm your eligibility. To be a good candidate for an internship at a publishing company, Megan and Hilary suggest being knowledgeable in Microsoft Word and Excel, competent using the internet and e-mail, have the ability to learn quickly, be open-minded, be willing to learn, and be friendly, respectful, professional, and trustworthy. Tom and Liz say peer assistant candidates need good people skills, patience, the ability to encourage students, and to complete work on time.

Frank Lehner Award for Teachers of English

The co-recipients of the 2006 Lehner Scholarship for Teachers of English are Sarah Lauer and Mariah Powers.

- Sarah is majoring in English: Literature, Secondary Education, and Psychology, is completing the Honors Degree Program, and studied abroad in South Africa for a semester.
- Mariah is majoring in English: Literature and Secondary Education, and is also completing an endorsement in Special Education. She helped design this year's Sinipee creative writing workshop for Dubuque-area middle and high school students.

The Lehner Scholarship was first given in 2004. It was established by an anonymous Loras College English alum in honor of Dr. Frank Lehner, who taught at Loras from 1955 through 1985. The award is given to one or two English graduates each year who show special promise as future secondary education teachers of English.

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!

Who's on Last? An Interview with Georgi Lancaster

by Paul Kilgore (MA '06)

In 2004, the Loras English Master's program was phased out. Anyone already in the program would be allowed to finish. Currently, there are only two remaining students in the English Master's program: myself and Georgi Lancaster. If all goes according to plan, I will be exiting the program late this summer or early in the fall, leaving Georgi as the last English graduate student at Loras. Recently I had the opportunity to sit and talk with Georgi about many things, including her feelings about being the last English graduate student.

When asked about her personal life, the conversation immediately gravitates to family. Georgi's husband, Paul, a former teacher, currently works for McKesson. She has three children, including Lisa who currently attends Loras and is working on her Master's in clinical psychology.

Georgi has been involved in education most of her adult life. She earned an undergraduate degree in French from Elmhurst College in Illinois. After graduating, she spent the next three years teaching French at a Catholic school in Illinois. While teaching there, Georgi earned her undergraduate degree in English. After teaching for three years in Illinois, Georgi and her family moved to Wisconsin. She was soon hired at a local technical college to teach communication skills. Georgi currently works at Northeast Iowa Community College in Peosta where she teaches writing classes. She jokingly credits getting her current job to persistence and her willingness to teach 7 A.M. classes.

Unlike many graduate students, Georgi's decision to enroll in the Master's program was not job-related. She started the program for herself and because she enjoys academics, especially literature.

Georgi and I have taken several courses together, so we naturally discuss specific classes that we have taken and professors that we have had. Georgi's favorite class was her first class at Loras, Dr. Bauerly's "Writers for the Twenty-First Century." It was a fun course that really inspired her interest in the program. She also enjoyed the class because it was made up entirely of graduate students who were of similar age and shared similar interests. Georgi developed lasting friendships with some of the other graduate students in the class, making it all the more memorable.

Our discussion then turns to the most satisfying and most challenging aspects of the program. Georgi explains that the overall experience has been great and she has met a lot of outstanding people. The most challenging aspect, without a doubt, has been juggling her family and career commitments with the heavy writing and reading load that is part of the program. Georgi qualifies this by explaining that in a lot of ways, the heavy work load has been one of the more satisfying aspects of the experience, because it has allowed her to get into academics in a way that would have otherwise been very difficult.

Immediately after graduating, she plans to simply enjoy the sense of accomplishment, her family and her career, and maybe do a little yoga.

Before leaving, I ask Georgi how she feels about being the last English Master's graduate. Her immediate response is that she feels sad. She believes the program is a good fit for Loras because of the school's strong English undergraduate program. Georgi disagrees with critics who complain that the program is not rigorous enough. She points out that she has been through two undergraduate programs and has graduate credit from other schools and that the Master's program at Loras has been the most challenging. At the same time, Georgi also feels pride in being last and admits there are worse things a person could be than the answer to a future Loras trivia question.

Loras Hosts Irish Studies Conference

by Barbara Simon ('07)

Loras College joined the ranks of several large universities in hosting the Midwest Regional American Conference for Irish Studies on October 20–22, 2005. Previous conference locations include the University of Missouri–St. Louis (2002), Illinois State University (2003), and the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (2004). Dr. Andrew Auge, Associate Professor of English, has attended the last several conferences. In August 2004, Dr. Auge was approached by Jim Rogers, president of the ACIS Midwest Regional, about Loras College hosting the 2005 conference. Dr. Auge accepted. His year of planning brought an estimated 80 faculty and graduate students to the Loras campus from across the United States and Ireland.

The theme was *The Spirit of Ireland*. During the weekend, the Irish impact on the human spirit through literature, history, politics, and culture was examined. A poetry reading by Eavan Boland, Stanford University's Director of their Creative Writing program, also brought in local residents from the Dubuque community. Earlier that day, Loras hosted a reception with faculty and students where Boland discussed her writing—its sources, inspirations, and difficulties. A noted Irish poet, Boland has published several books of poetry including *In a Time of Violence* (1994) and *Outside History: Selected Poems 1980–1990*. She has also written her autobiography, *Object Lessons: The Life of the Woman and the Poet in Our Time* (1995).

Also in attendance at the conference was an authority on Seamus Heaney, Professor Eugene O'Brien, Head of the English Department at Mary Immaculate College. Professor O'Brien authored *Seamus Heaney: Searches for Answers* in addition to other books on Heaney.

While Loras is proud to have had the opportunity to host this event, Dr. Auge was equally pleased "with how many of the conference participants commented on the friendliness and beauty of Loras College."

Sinipee Writers Workshop

by Hilary Hahn ('06)

On April 8, 2006, middle and high school students participated in the second-annual Sinipee Writers Workshop held at Loras College. The workshop was split into two sections, one for grades six through eight, the other grades nine through twelve. Education majors Mariah Powers and Laura Lehmann developed the day's program and served as group leaders. English majors Chelsey Cox, Marilyn Duff, Liz Elsbernd, Kate Gross, Hilary Hahn, Laurie Hunstad, Tom McNamara, Maggie McNair, and Carrie VanDorn volunteered to teach the aspiring writers.

During the workshop, students performed various exercises to develop their creative capacities in nonfiction, poetry, and fiction. First, they had to invent an excuse, using exaggeration and imagination, as to "Why I missed school." The results were hilarious. Students said they had been chased by gnomes, were afraid of even numbers, or had witnessed an alien invasion. Next, they constructed concrete poems with an emphasis on sensory images. By drawing shapes with words, they wrote poems describing their secret box or life as a trash can. The final activity allowed participants to enhance their fiction writing techniques. After choosing a magazine ad, students developed a plot, setting, and characters using dialogue and descriptive detail. From a picture of three teenagers, one girl cultivated a story about a juicy love triangle, focusing on teen issues such as popularity.

The day proved thrilling and beneficial for participants and instructors. Laura Lehmann, leader of the high school group, said the following in regard to her future as a secondary education teacher: "It was a good way to get in front of the classroom and work hands-on with students." After the workshop concluded, Phil Beecher, a senior at Senior High School, remarked, "I thought the workshop was fun and a great way to express my writing skills!" Cecilia Grove, a junior at North Scott High School who drove over two hours to participate, confirmed her trip was worthwhile, saying, "I thought it was interesting, and I gained new ideas and perspectives on writing."

Before leaving, students received a certificate of participation and an award based on their individual talents. Such honors included most creative poem, most intellectual ideas, and best memory. Students were also reminded that they will grow as long as they continue to read and write. As the Samuel Lover quote written on their certificates says, "When the itch of literature comes over a writer, nothing can cure it but the scratching of a pen."

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, 2007, and for the *Newsletter*, May 1, 2007. For more information, contact Kevin Koch at 563-588-7536 or kevin.koch@loras.edu.

English Program Review

by Christa Erzen ('08)

Every seven years, each department at Loras College goes through a rigorous review session. In 2005–2006 it was the English department's turn to do so. The review process consists of a self-study and involvement of external reviewers with intentions to further develop the program over the next few years. The Loras English Department had two external reviewers, one from Coe College in Iowa as well as Knox College in Illinois. These reviewers were very complimentary about the program and noted that the students, faculty, and curriculum of the program are well-respected on campus.

The department's self-study objective was to discuss concerns, strengths, and goals of its program. The strengths of the program included the depth of the selection of English literature and writing courses for a small college, the quality of the students in the major, and the quality of the faculty in terms of teaching, service, and scholarship/writing

One of the concerns was that there is no common course experience for the incoming English majors. The faculty wants to create a "gateway course" into the English major, so there is a common starting point. There is already a common middle point with Literary Criticism and a common exit experience according to major: Literature majors complete a Literature Portfolio, and Creative Writing majors complete a senior creative thesis. Another concern is that although there is much racial and ethnic diversity represented in literature courses, there is no curricular means to guarantee that students will encounter such a course. Thus the English faculty will be considering whether to include a diversity/world literature requirement within the Literature and Writing major.

Literary Club

by Brianne Erger ('08)

This year has been nothing short of productive for the Literary Club. With Tom McNamara, Robin Kenicker, Carrie VanDorn, and Jessica Urgo in leadership roles, there was opportunity for various involvements by the members both on and off of the Loras campus.

Dr. Susan Stone, the Literary Club's faculty advisor, was able to boast about the numerous activities that the club participated in over the year. Through fundraising efforts they were able to contribute to their field trip to Chicago. Also, they were very successful with the book drive that they had earlier in the year.

On campus, they were able to meet with various other students and faculty for group discussions. Their discussions are very eclectic in regard to the authors and poets of interest. Dr. Stone was pleased with the Literary Club's latest discussion on the "Power of Poe," which she said was well attended. Junior Jessica Urgo stated that Dr. Stone was able to provide "background on Poe, which

(continued on page 19)

Dr. Bauerly—Fifty Plus Years of Teaching and Still Counting . . .

as told to Becky Barnhart (BA '96, MA '01)

Can it be? Fifty plus years of teaching and still going? Yes, this Academic Energizer Bunny is still pounding that “different drum.”

Where have the years gone? Here’s the countdown:

- 1953–1954: Student teaching 7th and 8th grades at her own home school of Holy Trinity in Dubuque.
- 1955–1958: First “real” teaching position at St. Mary’s, Waterloo, 7th and 8th grades, all subjects.
- 1958–1963: St. John Brebeuf, teaching 8th grade in Niles, Illinois.
- 1963–1967: Wahlert High School, teaching language arts to freshman and sophomore students.
- 1967–1968: Central School, Oklahoma City, teaching language arts in an ungraded 7–12 system.
- 1968–1971: Milwaukee: Master’s and Doctoral program in 19th and 20th Century American Literature at Marquette University; taught in both the Good Shepherd Home for Wayward Girls and the Milwaukee County Institutions as well as in an Outward Bound Program for disadvantaged youth at Marquette.
- 1971 to the present: Loras College. Began as an Instructor and became the first woman Professor at Loras College in 1973.

During her 35 years of teaching at Loras College, Dr. Bauerly has developed over 40 distinct courses approved by the Academic Council, including “quest” courses that involved as many as 17 professors from a wide variety of disciplines, seeking “answers” to conundrums such as: “Nothing,” “The Doppelganger,” “Male/Female; Masculine/Feminine,” “Creativity and Depression” and an all-time favorite: “Food for Thought.” She is proud to claim, at this time, six cluster courses taught in conjunction with Dr. Robert Dunn’s “Introduction to Personality.” Such courses are the greatest challenge since on the IDEA evaluation forms, most students assert that, at the beginning, they did NOT want to take the course. The throwing down of that gauntlet creates terrific motivation on her part.

Dr. Bauerly also answers a couple of key questions on her website:

Why would you encourage a prospective student to come to Loras College for a Major in English Literature and/or Writing? The Department of English is an exciting and challenging base to call your academic “center” at Loras. Our English majors excel in a wide variety of ways: marvelous camaraderie established in highly interactive classes with challenging and encouraging professors; outstanding community and socially conscious involvement of many of our majors; award-winning majors in a wide variety of areas: faculty scholarship, Rechenmacher Award for Creativity, the St. Thomas More Award, and annual recognition in the National

Catholic Honor Society Undergraduate Writing Competition. English majors have been awarded first place prizes in poetry, fiction, and non-fiction for many years. From among the courses offered by our outstanding roster of 11 full-time faculty members, you can choose from an array of 18 writing courses and 33 literature courses. With exciting new courses on the line to match our curriculum changes, what better major could you find if you love to read and write!

What is the best part about being a faculty member at Loras? I fell in love with Loras College my very first semester here when I began to interact with **real-people** students and colleagues. The openness and friendliness of our students is truly engaging. Most students care about an excellent education, and they are excited when they find professors who are just as excited about what can be sizzling interactions in class and beyond. Many students rediscover a love of literature and writing, an enthusiasm newly expressed, sometimes, since early grade school years.

Favorite quote that appears on all her syllabi: “The true function of scholarship, as of society, is not to stake out claims on which others may not trespass, but to establish a community of knowledge in which others may share.” F.O. Matthiessen.

Will she miss Loras College after the academic year of 2006–2007? She says, “Yes and also a resounding NO.” She certainly intends to stay “with it,” meaning she will be intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally engaged in her professional loves: teaching and writing. Much of her writing will center on her biography of Raymond Roseliep, already in progress. She may even begin to polish some of her poetry, specifically from among her numerous haiku and even try to publish. She will definitely miss students’ enthusiasm and even miss trying to motivate the unmotivated. She will miss her colleagues and administrators. She will miss part of the routine, but she will welcome the lack of interference in what she deems is absolutely necessary to the excellence of teaching—the right to define the challenge and to determine the prime times in which to teach. She will miss the right brain/left brain activity of designing new courses and intellectual “problems” to consider in that special company of dedicated students. Once she has completed her biography she will offer her teaching services to such venues as these: the River Boat Museum, the Arboretum, residential care facilities, YM/YWCA, DB&T travel opportunities—and she is still thinking of more! Teaching is in her blood. She spent her early childhood across the side street from one of the best schools in Dubuque, a laboratory school called Holy Trinity. To those early and great teachers, she owes far more than she could ever give back!

She will continue her fund raising efforts as President of the Carnegie-Stout Library Foundation and hopes to be re-elected to the Dubuque Community School Board where she has already served ten dedicated years.

English Majors Change the World Through Service

by Jennifer Haut ('07)

While the life of an English major may seem all about literature or writing, this is not exactly the case for several Loras students. Many take part in opportunities to broaden their horizons outside the classroom, and one such opportunity is through the various service trips offered each year through Campus Ministry. With nine trips offered during the academic year, it seems there is a trip to fit the desires of just about anyone. During the fall semester, students travel to Davenport over tri-college weekend and McKee, Kentucky, during the Thanksgiving holiday. There is a trip to Haiti over Christmas break and the spring semester offers trips to Vanceburg, Kentucky; Camden, New Jersey; and Selma, Alabama. There is also a trip to Honduras during spring break. Lastly, students visit the Pilsen neighborhood over the long winter break; and during Holy Week, Loras students converge in Washington, D.C. Many English majors have decided to give up the novels and papers for a week of their time and give back much of what they have been given. Of the nine trips, English majors were a part of five this year, with Andy Mills serving in McKee, Kentucky; Jennifer Haut, Rachel Carroll, and Laura Lehmann hitting the east coast in Camden; Sarah Lauer to Haiti, Andrea Urbain went to Pilsen, and serving in Honduras were Valerie Flynn and Amy Hall.

Senior Literature major Sarah Lauer was eager to participate in a service trip since her start at Loras. She felt blessed to travel to Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, to volunteer with the Louverture Cleary School in January, 2006. For a week, the group of students on the journey spent time at a school building a bathroom, digging a trench to lay a water pipeline and electrical wire, building and installing solar panels, and building a basketball court by hand for the neighborhood community. While the students and the accompanying faculty members accomplished a lot during the week, Lauer still had to wrestle with the greater needs in the world: "So many times I have thought to myself, 'I want to do something, but what can I do? I'm only one person—how can I make an impact?' We look at our world today and there is so much work to be done that it can be overwhelming." What Lauer did come away with was an acknowledgement of doing something with what you have. "We didn't turn around the Haitian economy, but we did work hard to improve the conditions of the school, we did create a community space where the neighborhood can come together to play basketball, and we were able to form bonds with amazing people at the school and in the community we will never forget."

While Lauer embarked on an international journey, sophomore English Literature major Laura Lehmann conquered the messiness of the world right here in the states on a spring break trip to Camden, New Jersey. The decision to give back to others was an easy one as she wanted to follow in the example of her great uncle who has done missionary work in poverty-stricken countries. What she found in Camden, known as the second poorest city in the second richest state, was that poverty is prevalent just about anywhere. Dur-

ing the week, Lehmann took part in a variety of different service opportunities while staying at the Romero Center, a retreat center offering "urban challenge" trips to high school and college students. She had the opportunity to meet a wide variety of individuals: children in after-school programs, homeless men in a soup kitchen, residents of a wheelchair community, and individuals infected with AIDS/HIV. The trip was not focused entirely on what she could do for the city of Camden. "One of the first days at the center, Fr. Robert McDermott, the priest of the local parish, commented, 'You're being changed this week. Not Camden, not Philly. Try and find empathy, put yourself in their shoes.' I knew there was a lot of truth to what he said, but I also knew that we were making an impact on the people we met," Lehmann said.

Along with Lehmann, I also had the chance to experience the city of Camden. The decision to go on a service trip as a senior wasn't difficult. In fact, this was my third and final Loras trip and definitely one of the best ways to spend my spring break. While our stay at the Romero Center was quite different from my previous experience staying in a homeless shelter in D.C., New Jersey was similar because of the connections made between works of charity and works of justice. Along with the others on the trip, I had to face the reality that while the service I did in Camden helped people, it would never be enough to fix all the challenges facing a city in such despair. It was our duty to return from the trip and tell others about the experience. I came away from the experience with a greater understanding of the need to be the voice for the voiceless.

Both Lauer and Lehmann felt they put some of their English skills to good use in the communities they served, making note of the importance of communication. In Haiti, with the exception of some staff members and students that spoke English, most people speak Haitian Creole. "Because of this language barrier, we were challenged to figure out a variety of forms of communication with the people we were serving. The trip gave me a hands-on appreciation for various perspectives, new learning experiences, and the desire to try to not only communicate with the people of Haiti, but with fellow students upon our return," Lauer commented. Lehmann experienced similar situations in Camden with its diverse Hispanic and Spanish-speaking residents. It helped her learn "the importance of language in general and the hardships people can face if they are in the minority," she said.

While these two women and I were a part of just two of the trips Loras offers, we demonstrated the importance of giving back to the community, and taking our skills out into the greater world. Lauer put it best by saying, "You can't experience something so powerful and not have it change you. Having the opportunity to work with people so dedicated to making a difference is empowering and inspiring to continue to do such work. When we understand our motivations for creating change, we can better serve our world. When we live in solidarity with one another, we can make a difference, and we don't need to wait for someone else to put that in motion—it is inside every one of us to begin to improve our world."

New Courses Offered

by Chris Stechman ('08)

How exactly do literature and the real world interact? Does the real world influence writing or does writing influence the real world? These were just a couple of questions I had upon registering for Dr. Stone's newest course, "Law and Literature."

Students begin their journey through the blended worlds of our American legal system and the literary arts by first examining the movie *Amistad*. The class then rapidly advances through the ages and up into modern times with a focus on Native American relations.

During the class there is a blend of sources and materials from books, to articles, and even a couple of movies. While this may sound like an easy class from an English Lit perspective, it is anything but. In fact, this class takes the idea of final exams one step closer to the real world. Instead of the traditional final exam, complete with essay or multiple choice questions, the Honorable Dr. Stone presides over a mock trial. Everyone in the class participates in one function or another throughout the entire trial process. Just like a real life court case, the class has to think on their feet and adjust as they go. Unlike the real thing though, grades were based upon overall performance and not exclusively on the win or loss of the case.

Being a part of the second offering of this course I can personally attest to the enthusiastic energy of the class which is part of what makes it such a fantastic success. Even though there are elements which appeal to Pre-Law and English majors, this is an advanced general education course from which any major will gain valuable experience. Education majors have also found this to be a valuable source of ideas for active learning set-up for their own lesson planning.

Dr. Stone says her inspiration for the course comes from her love of reading combined with an interest in movies depicting the intricacies of the American legal system. Upon examining the *New York Times* best seller list she found this trend in both fiction and non-fiction listings as well. She was quite right when she figured Loras students would also enjoy such a blending!

Even though Dr. Stone does not currently plan to make any major changes to the course, she is always searching for ways to improve the experience. Along this line, she is considering changing some of the required texts for those with more currently relevant topics.

If you are considering taking this course, one piece of advice Dr. Stone has is: "Be prepared to read, write, watch, enjoy, and be both surprised and intrigued. And, of course, don't be afraid to speak up!" I can honestly say that I have to wholeheartedly agree with Dr. Stone in her assessment that the best part of the class occurs when people actually chimed in and there were some lively discussions and debates. So a word to the wise: Read and PARTICIPATE!

Habitat for Humanity Update

by Brianne Erger ('06)

This year the Habitat for Humanity organization has been involved with the building of two homes in the Dubuque area. Dr. Susan Stone is the Loras College faculty member who has been involved with the student advising of this group. Junior social work major Cristina Cuzzone was the Chair of Habitat for Humanity. The entire board consists of 12 members. During the past year, many active members, including English majors Abby Calvert and Jessica Mayer, focused on fundraising and planning for the intended week-long building of a home that will take place this summer. The Loras College Habitat for Humanity group is collaborating with the Blitz board this summer to complete the project.

Anticipated for next fall is the combined effort with the Dubuque/Jackson County Habitat for Humanity to work on additional homes in the fall of 2006. The Loras Habitat for Humanity organization assisted them in the completion of a home on Amelia Drive this year.

New this year, Habitat for Humanity has had, and will continue to have, skills workshops which function as a means to incorporate skills necessary for individuals to build the homes. Many of the students who attended the workshops were able to use the skills they gained to assist in the construction of the homes.

The majority of this year has been focused on efforts to define leadership roles and develop training skills. The group intends to organize fundraising efforts by having tee-shirt sales in the fall.

Roseliep Scholar Visits Loras

On the evening of October 6, 2005, Dr. Randy Brooks, Roseliep scholar and poet, spoke of the "The Haiku Personae of Raymond Roseliep: A Leap from Walden Pond" at St. Joseph's Hall of Science. A reception followed.

Brooks focused on Roseliep's influence on the North American Haiku Community and read aloud many of Roseliep's haiku.

While visiting the Loras campus, Dr. Brooks spent time in the Roseliep Room at the Wahlert Memorial Library, and also graciously took the time to meet with each of Dr. Bauerly's writing classes and work with the students to develop their haiku. He reviewed haiku submitted by students and gave each student feedback.

Brooks, Professor of English at Millikin University, Decatur, IL, has received national awards for service learning and international recognition for his writing and editing of haiku poetry.

Roseliep, a priest and professor at Loras College from 1946-1966, was an award winning and internationally known haiku poet.

See the Millikin University Haiku web site at <http://www.millikin.edu/haiku> for more about Brooks and his work with haiku students at Millikin.

2006 *Alpha* and *Outlet* Sampler

Good Rat Bastard

Sometimes
I think about you dying
and what kind of eulogy
I'd give in your honor.

I'd probably talk about how
you said there were two kinds of people:
a good rat bastard or a bad rat bastard.

I'd reminisce about
our canoe trips down the Fever River,
or bittersweet picking,
or riding, top down, in your robin's egg blue convertible.

I'd laugh at your old stories,
like how you convinced me
that I cracked my head open when I was two,
and that I rolled down the cemetery hill trying to smell the flowers,
and that my mom was the wicked witch of the west.

And I'm positive I'd end my speech
with tears in my eyes,
saying, grandpa Dale was a good rat bastard.

Hilary Hahn, *Outlet*

Accounts Receivable

The grid of desks fills the room, vacuumed of joy.
Beyond our Ebenezer's glass vault,
we crouch over our desks, hold our heads like dizzy children,
and regurgitate numbers from receipts into cyber oblivion.
We balance dollars like grounded tight-rope walkers.
Batch after batch of 8 ½ x 11 white, filled with black-
alpha-numeric codes of nameless products run through my fingers
and roll across the ten-key,
a cacophony of nickels, dimes, and quarters ricochets off my
eardrums and through my skull,
The clock keeps time in dog years, so slowly the minutes pass.
Life, never to be recaptured.

Barbara Simon, *Alpha*

Nighttime

Night air
floating around us
like blue ribbon-notes
from a deep-throated saxophone,

soles of our shoes
scratching asphalt diamond,
and us, passing under
halos of orange street lights,

silently discussing
everything and nothing,
coming to satisfying inconclusions,

contenting ourselves
with our *andante* movements and the
nighttime neighborhoods,

dark homes and
darker lawns,
the whole world,
a sepulcher, a sonata, around us,
and us, not lonely, but drunken
with the time we had alone together,

my limbs
still moving effortlessly
as a pianist's fingers
when you told me

we were taking things too fast.

Kevin McNee, *Outlet* and *Alpha*

Ritual

The old man, his face riddled with
seemingly perpetual stubble,
creaks out of his twin size mattress,
his callused, wrinkled feet numb from the cold
hardwood floor.

Eyes squinted, driving east,
in his 1987 burgundy Buick Century,
he stops at McDonalds
and instinctively orders
two Styrofoam cups
filled to the brim with
scalding hot coffee,
poured by a short, blonde employee
with newly tightened braces.

He drives past the factory
as he has done every day for years.
Its towering cylindrical smokestacks
belch white death.
He fumbles with the radio dial,
checking for the Cubs score.

His journey ends at
the cemetery.
The old man hikes up the dewy grass and
gently places one steaming cup of coffee on top of
the marble tombstone,
and, after glancing around,
starts talking about the game.

Matthew Balk, *Alpha* and *Outlet*

Alumni Pictures



Jeremy and Nicole Salucka at the 230th birthday celebration of the U.S. Marine Corps held in November, 2005, in Belgrade.



Lisa Higgs and Thalia Anne



Jay, Jennifer, and Grace DiBenidetto



Michelle Ruggaber Dougherty and Mike



Celia Venhuizen and Scott



Angie Takes' new puppy

Future Plans of Graduating Seniors

by Tom McNamara ('07)

I'd like to open this article on our senior English majors by announcing that today, May 3, is Jen Haut's last day of field placement for her Social Work major. She is happy to be a real live Duhawk again, though she will only enjoy Duhawk status for another week. Then, she will become a semi-real person as she embarks on a year of service through the St. Joseph the Worker's Program in the Twin Cities. When commenting on her responsibilities, Jen said, "In addition to living in community with other women committed to social justice, I will work at the College of St. Catherine in their Center for Community Work and Learning. This means I'll be working with students, engaging with faculty to integrate service learning into their curriculum, and building relationships with community organizations." Jen also hopes that she will encounter students and professors of English on the college's campus. She also is eager to discover if all campuses have literary criticism profes-

sors who lie on desks when their classes are unresponsive.

When Laura Coyne responded to my email about the article, she offered her apologies for what she is about to do—abandon her English background! Not only will Laura not pursue a career in English, but she will not continue her study of psychology. Laura said, "It pains me to dishonor my English degree by going into something so "other": nursing. It's out there now. I am waiting for the outpouring of criticism." Laura plans on completing her prerequisites at a community college in the Chicago area before applying to nursing programs at Rush and Loyola Universities. However, Laura plans to employ the English skills she has gained at Loras each time she speaks. "I plan to respond to people only using quotes from great works of literature." When I asked Laura why she planned to do this, she replied, "April is the cruelest month."

Like Laura, Erin Dillavou also plans to pursue a degree in an area outside of her English background—Erin plans to pursue a Master's in Business Administration. Currently, she is trying to find a summer job.

(continued on page 19)

Dr. Andy Auge, Associate Professor of English. His main endeavor during the last year, besides teaching, involved organizing and hosting the Midwest Regional conference of the American Conference on Irish Studies. The conference focused on *The Spirit of Ireland* and explored the manifold ways—literary, historical, political, cultural—by which the Irish experience and/or the Irish diaspora have shaped our understanding of the human spirit. It was attended by approximately 80 faculty and graduate students from all over the United States as well as from Ireland. The highlights included a poetry reading by Eavan Boland, Director of the Creative Writing Program at Stanford University and author of many award-winning volumes of poetry, including *An Origin Like Water: Collected Poems 1967–1987* and *Against Love Poetry* (2001), as well as the highly acclaimed literary memoir *Object Lessons* (1995).

He is continuing to write and publish on contemporary Irish poetry, including an essay on the Pulitzer Prize winning Irish poet, Paul Muldoon. His article “Imperial Philosophy and the Resistant Word in Paul Muldoon’s ‘Madoc: A Mystery’ ” was published in the Winter 2005 issue of the journal *Contemporary Literature*. He is currently finishing an essay on the Irish poet Seamus Heaney for a book entitled *Heaney in Theory*, which will be published by Routledge. In keeping with the Irish theme, Dr. Auge is also spearheading the development and implementation of an Irish Studies minor at Loras.

Dr. Donna Bauerly, Professor of English. The years have a typical “ring” to them: teaching four classes each semester: Critical Writing Poetry and Fiction, College Writing, Modern and Contemporary American Poetry, American Women Dramatists and a cluster (Search for Identity) each semester teamed with Dr. Robert Dunn’s “Introduction to Personality.” She welcomed to her cadre of about 40 advisees a new group of first-year student advisees, served as the English Department Graduate Coordinator (just two graduate students to finish their programs!), moderated the National Catholic Honor Society *Alpha* magazine, and coordinated *The Loras College English Newsletter* in its twenty-sixth year. She judged the Galena High School poetry contest, served her tenth year on the Dubuque Community School Board and her seventh year on the Carnegie-Stout Public Library Foundation Board, serving her second term as President. She also coordinated the Foundation’s fund raising (\$50,000 was given to the Library in 2005–2006) and spearheaded their First Edition Auction (garnering \$6000 in additional funds for the library). Dr. Bauerly also gave two PowerPoint presentations about her ongoing biographical research for Raymond Roseliep, one for her faculty colleagues in an April colloquium and another for the Carnegie-Stout Public Library. She continued her research for the Roseliep biography during the summer of 2006, centering in on an intended Chapter Two: Scholar. She will be concluding her formal teaching career at Loras College in May of 2007, choosing two of her favorite literature courses for her final semesters: “Writers for the

Twenty-First Century” in the fall and an entirely new course she developed during the summer of 2006: “Southern Discomfort: the Great Divide,” as her “swan song.” The course, centering in on both gothic and grotesque literature (a long-abiding interest) will include such Southern greats as: Poe, Faulkner, O’Connor, Gordon, McCullers, Cather, Williams, and Henley—as well as a few “misplaced” Northerners: Bierce and Fitzgerald.

Professor Karla Braig (BA ’78, MA ’88), just began her twenty-ninth year of employment at Loras College. She is a 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, and will be offering her course entitled, “1968,” again this fall.

Last fall, Karla was elected to the Dubuque City Council as representative for Ward 2. This office has meant a steep learning curve and many exciting meetings for Karla, all after she is finished with her Loras work. This fall, Karla and her husband Jim will host three Japanese students from Eichi University. This is the eighteenth time they have done this, and they continue to enjoy their visitors from Japan.

This summer, Karla and her husband took their four grandchildren camping in Minnesota, and then put 2,000 miles on their van, traveling around visiting children, all with their two soft-coated wheaten terriers in their kennels in the back of the van. Clancy and Doogie are very good travelers. However, Karla and Jim’s summer calm was shattered with the sudden death of their 40-year-old son, Christopher (’88), from a heart attack on July 20th. Please keep the family in your prayers as the school year begins.

Rita Dudley, Instructor of English, 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. 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 the English department’s Program Review,

helped with the Majors Fair, and attended the College's Affirmative Inquiry workshops. In addition, Knefel again served on the Outlet staff as an associate advisor.

He was also in charge of overseeing assessment of the Advanced General Education Aesthetics classes, as well as serving on the Rechenmacher Scholarship Committee.

In other activities, Knefel continues to write his "Critic at Large" column for the *Telegraph Herald*, which now appears on the first Sunday of every month, both in print and on-line.

Dr. Kevin Koch, Professor of English, completed his second year as Chair of the Division of Language & Literature, after twelve prior years as English Department Chair. During the year he helped guide the English Program's search for a new Shakespeare/Medieval faculty member and also helped guide the English Program Review, which is an extensive self-study that every department conducts every seventh year. His courses this year were Language Theory & Teaching of Writing, Nature Writing, Creative Nonfiction Writing, and Monastery Voices. In May 2006 his essay "Manitoumie. Sinsinawa." was published in *Big Muddy: A Journal of the Mississippi River Valley*. Currently he has begun researching a piece about the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge near LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

Dr. James Pollock, Assistant Professor of English, spent the summer of 2005 writing poetry. For ten days in August he attended the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference at Middlebury College in Vermont on a scholarship, along with his wife, Dr. Stormy Stipe, who writes fiction and teaches literature and creative writing at UW-Platteville. During 2005-2006, he continued to be an active member of the Redactors, a writing group for Loras faculty, and became a contributing reviewer for PoetryReviews.ca, a web site devoted to reviews of new Canadian books of poetry. Three of his new poems were accepted for publication by journals in Canada, one by *The Dalhousie Review*, and two by *Armada Literary Quarterly*.

Dr. Pollock had a rewarding year of teaching, guiding several students in writing their senior theses and English portfolios. Besides his usual courses in Poetry Writing, Advanced Poetry Writing, Shakespeare, and College Writing, he taught a new Honors course in European Modernism. In 2006-2007 he will be advising several students with their senior theses, and plans to offer a new course for majors in modern European literature.

Dr. Pollock had a busy and productive year of service, including work on the Individualized Major Committee and the search committee for the new hire in Medieval and Renaissance Literature. He was also an Associate Editor of *Outlet*, and made contributions related to the English program review, the new World Literature minor, and the college's new calendar initiative. In the summer of 2006, besides writing, Dr. Pollock and his wife planned to work on two big family projects: buying their first house, in Madison, WI, and adopting their first child, from Ethiopia.

Dr. Liz Raschke, Assistant Professor of English, taught three first-year writing classes and The Romantic Age, and continued her work on the Teacher Education Screening Committee and the Curriculum Committee. Routine was broken by the visit of poet Eavan Boland during the Irish Studies Conference. Dr. Raschke and Dr. Jim Pollock were recruited to help facilitate her stay in Dubuque and it was a thrill to spend time and share conversation with a poet of her importance.

Second semester was definitely not typical. Dr. Raschke was on sabbatical and spent time doing research on the Gothic tradition in Irish literature. (she would argue that Dracula is every bit as Irish as he is Transylvanian!) Much of her work involved learning about Irish history and culture in the nineteenth century (and necessarily beyond, of course), which gave "rise" to the specters and vampires of writers like Charles Maturin, Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, and Bram Stoker, all Anglo-Irishmen. She drafted and hopes to present at a conference this coming year an article focusing on Le Fanu's *Carmilla* as a representative allegory of the conflicted cultural identity of the Anglo-Irish at the middle of the century. She plans to organize her materials into a proposal for a new course on Irish Gothic literature.

Dr. Raschke also had a wonderful trip to Italy this past semester, visiting Rome, Florence, Naples, Pompeii, and Orvieto. Along with the usual, but no less amazing, sights like the Coliseum and the Sistine Chapel, she visited the house where Keats lived and died in Rome, now also the site of the Keats and Shelley museum, a wonderful little museum with all sorts of exciting primary documents—letters, journals, original drafts of poems—from the lives of these two poets. It was a thrill for her to look out the window of Keats's room—just as he must have—and see the Spanish Steps, the Church of the Trinita dei Monti, and Bernini's boat-shaped fountain, the Barcaccia. She later visited the Protestant Cemetery, where both Keats and Shelley are buried. It was a bit out-of-the-way, as Protestants were not allowed burial within the walls of the city of Rome at the time of Keats's and Shelley's deaths. The cemetery is still the beautiful spot that Shelley himself described, and she was surprised to find it patrolled by a very large number of visitor-friendly cats, who make themselves comfortable on the graves of the famous. She learned later that adjoining the cemetery is a shelter for homeless cats, opened by a woman who felt that they would be welcome companions to the dead!

This past May Dr. Raschke attended, for the second time, the Teaching Professor Conference in Nashville, where she learned much about the nature and needs of the "millennial student," and also picked up some new and very practical ideas for classroom teaching, particularly some group discussion techniques that she plans to experiment with in the fall.

Dr. Susan Stone, Assistant Professor of English, enjoyed an active fifth year at Loras. She taught American

Literature, African American Literature, College Writing, Democracy & Global Diversity, and two Advanced General Education courses, “Legal Eagles: Law in American Film and Literature,” and “The Film and Literature of the Wild West and American Frontier.” As an advisor, Dr. Stone found this school year especially rewarding because she got to work with her 46 wonderful advisees.

In addition to her teaching and mentoring, Dr. Stone began working on a book proposal solicited by Cambridge Scholars Press. She had papers accepted for presentation at the upcoming annual meetings of SSAWW (Society for the Study of American Women Writers) and AIS (Association for Integrative Studies), and she is also organizing a conference panel on women’s literary letter writing in America. This spring, she was honored to be nominated for the Budde teaching award.

Dr. Stone’s Loras service involvements included being an Advisor for Habitat for Humanity, the Literary Society, and the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority. She continued to serve on five Loras committees, TLTR, Faculty Development, CEVE, First-Year/MOI, and Friends of the Library, and she helped to coordinate the student writers at the Sinipee Writers’ Workshop. This year, she also participated in Launch into Loras, Registration, and assessment for College Writing, Aesthetics, MOI, and Democracy & Global Diversity. Most recently, Dr. Stone was elected to the Faculty Senate and to the position of Chair for the Faculty Development committee, and she is looking forward to her new responsibilities.

Charlotte Ulve, English Instructor, plans to continue her work with first-year students assigned to Composition Skills classes. Using John Langan’s new rhetoric, *College Writing Skills—with Additional Readings*, she hopes to include more reflective essays in her courses.

To keep abreast of changes in store for both faculty and students here at Loras, Charlotte participated in the Appreciative Inquiry/Strategic Planning Workshop this past January. Later this semester, she also attended “Teaching & Learning with Podcasting,” an interactive conference presented to Loras faculty and staff by representatives from Apple Computers.

Even though she is no longer teaching “Writing About Literature” for non-English majors, she remains interested in the classroom dynamic wherein poetry, drama, and/or short fiction provoke both lively discussion and informed writing. To that end, she attended a mid-winter conference on “Tennessee Williams’ Desperate Women,” which was offered at Florida Gulf State University in Naples. Considering her own reflective response to the desperation suffered by Blanche du Bois, Williams’ most unforgettable character, Charlotte would argue that the truly tragic are those individuals without capacity for self-awareness, i.e. those entirely dependent on “the kindness of strangers.”

Dr. Ray Wilson, Professor of English, Wilson’s article “Raskolnikov’s Dream in *Crime and Punishment*” was

reprinted in *Raskolnikov and Svidrigalov*, edited by Harold Bloom. Ray also saw three of his new articles appear in print this year. Two appeared in *The Enigma of Good and Evil: The Moral Sentiment in Literature*, which is Volume LXXXV of the *Analecta Husserliana* book series sponsored by the World Phenomenology Institute; they are “The Phenomenology of Ethical Criticism: How Literature Affects Ethical Development” (pp. 445–454) and “In First Century Rome: A Test Case of Literary Influence on Ethical Development” (pp. 643–654). They are revisions of papers presented at Phenomenology and Literature conferences at Harvard University in two previous years. The third article is “A Phenomenological Theory of Literary Creativity: Ricoeur and Joyce,” (pp. 295–312) *Logos of Phenomenology and Phenomenology of the Logos*, which is Volume XCII of the *Analecta Husserliana* series. This article is a revision of the paper presented at the Third World Congress of Phenomenology at Oxford University in 2004. Ray also presented a paper at the 2005 Harvard University conference on Phenomenology and Literature: “Time in Post-Modern Fiction: The Drive for Realism.” This paper has been accepted for publication in the *Analecta Husserliana* series. Ray taught the majors’ courses British Drama 1890-present and British Poetry 1900-Present, in addition to two different cluster courses, two sections of Democracy and Global Diversity, and two sections of English 091, Writing Skills. He serves on the Faculty Development Committee where he organizes the annual Faculty Student Research and Creative Colloquium. He has been secretary for the English Area meetings and the Division of Language and Literature meetings, and served on the committee to review applications for the new person hired to teach Shakespeare, Renaissance, and Medieval Literature.

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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*.

Joshua Allen (MA '05) I very much enjoyed my time at Loras both as a student and as an adjunct. I do plan on continuing my education, though possibly on a part-time basis for a while until I get settled into the job. When I applied, I took an editing test which I passed with flying colors and I know I wouldn't have done as well without the valuable education I received at Loras in the Master's program, not to mention the hours spent pouring over student's papers as an adjunct. In Chicago I'll be working on the *Astrophysical Journal* at the UCP (University of Chicago Press).

Tricia Behnke (BA '98, MA '02) I've been in supply management at John Deere in Dubuque for over 5 years. Last fall I started part-time in a DBA program at St. Ambrose. In May, I presented a paper entitled "Share Your Fruit: 10 Ways to Combat Knowledge Hoarding" at the Eastern Academy of Management conference in New York. In my spare time, I enjoy being a Big Sister and a school mentor. I encourage everyone to volunteer to make a difference in the life of a child. Loras alumni make great role models!

Lisa (Kieffer) Breitsprecker ('03) Things are well here in the Galena School District. This year has presented many challenges but many more successes, and I am very happy professionally! Nate and I celebrate our first anniversary on June 11. We are taking a long weekend in Door County to celebrate. We have plans this summer to head to Minneapolis and Birmingham, AL, so lots of travel is in store. I've applied to write a K-8 guidance curriculum for the district, and I'm still waiting to hear back.

Gina Burkart ('94) My book, *A Parent's Guide to Harry Potter*, has now also been released on Audio. I have published two Narnia articles for Crosswalk.com and an article on *The Half-Blood Prince* for CBN.

The kids are continuing to grow and are very active! Adam is 12, Brianna is 11, and Emma is 9. Adam loves baseball and is a starting pitcher. Brianna plays competitive soccer and softball. Emma also plays soccer and softball. Some nights all I do is taxi cab them. But it is fun!

Susan (Parsons) Cain ('95) We're in Chicago now, living downtown in the Lincoln Park area. I'm writing and doing graphic design for a company in the Sears Tower. Quite a change from Detroit. We moved again for Matt's job—he got a great opportunity here and we love Chicago.

Cathy Canning ('03) continues to teach Advanced Placement High School English and Composition I and II to Dual Enrollment Students in Brownsville, Texas. Cathy has also been marketing her book, *Unknown Tomorrows: A Caregiver's Guide to Companioning the Seriously Ill*, which she published last spring. Check out her web site at www.caregivingandcancer.com.

Cathy is a co-director of one of South Texas's National Writing Projects which trains teachers at all levels to incorporate meaningful personal reading and writing lessons for students. Cathy's greatest joy is found in mentoring her son,

Elijah, (4) who now proudly reads the great works of Dr. Seuss to his mama rather than the other way around.

Olga (Possohova) Cullinan ('03) We are living in our new house and I just finished half of my Master's program in Russian and Eastern European studies. I will be doing the research for my thesis during this summer with the tentative topic, Russia: New Author and New Society. Russia has been through many changes since 1991 and there is no research or any anthologies of literature of this time. I am very curious to trace what people read, what authors write, and how the new literature is shaping up. I am planning on interviewing some of the new authors and large publishing houses.

Allyson DelDebbio ('04) Nothing too exciting to report—I am completing my Master's this summer at Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill, and I just found out that I will be student teaching at West Chicago High School. I will be teaching three hours of advanced placement American Literature and two hours of drama.

Jay DiBenedetto ('96) I'm still teaching in Winnebago. We live there now and my wife works at German American State Bank. I'm teaching mostly freshman English and a yearbook class. My little one, Grace, just turned one.

Michelle (Ruggaber) Dougherty ('98) I just finished my second year teaching English full time at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, Ohio. Last summer, my husband, Mike, and I bought our first house, and then left a month later to teach in Ohio Dominican's first study abroad semester in Rome, Italy. We had 8 ODU students who took 2 philosophy classes from Mike and 1 literature course from me, in which we studied literature set in Rome. In January we both returned to teaching at ODU's home campus. In early February we learned that we're expecting our first baby in October. We're thrilled!

Amy Fabricius ('97) I'm teaching at Selma High School, advisor of yearbook and student government; an adjunct at Wallace Community College, Selma, instructing English 101; currently cultivating a 6.5 foot tall tomato plant, and enjoying the southern delicacy of fried green tomatoes. Twenty five years after my last lesson, I am trying to teach myself how to play the violin again.

Allen Frantzen ('69) Using three letters written during World War I, I wrote lyrics for a song cycle called "Circles of Grief" that was premiered in France in November, 2005. The lyrics are based on letters by English and French soldiers and a woman German civilian. The music was written by the French composer Pierre Thillooy. Recently my play about an ambulance driver in the war was given a reading at Loyola University Chicago. The play is called "A Son at the Front" and is partly based on a novel of that name by Edith Wharton and on the history of a family in Oklahoma that sent two sons to the war.

Carrie Gehl (MA '04) Lauren Kathleen was born at 8:30 AM and Julia Marie at 8:32 AM on Wed., March 15. Both were 19 inches, Lauren weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces and Julia weighed 6 pounds 2 ounces. I am so amazed that I had twins and am now a mother of three. I love it but it is really demanding and challenging. I have never done a job this tough and Randy and I laugh/cry that we will never have a day off!

Amber Gille ('05) I am still working at Pearson Educational Measurement in Iowa City as an Item Development Associate. I'm settling in and learning a lot about the intricacies of educational assessment and its partnership with NCLB.

I'm starting a family cookbook and am in the process of compiling recipes and starting some stories. Other than that, I have an upcoming trip to New York and Washington, D.C., and then a trip to Las Vegas in the fall. I'll be staying busy with some travel and some writing.

Emily Griskavich ('03) I will finish my second year of AmeriCorps in Wausau, WI, this August. After that, I am heading to Milwaukee to begin my Master's in Library and Information Science at UW-Milwaukee. This year, my poetry was published in *Children, Churches, and Daddies* and *Down in the Dirt*. Three of my poems, accepted by *Down in the Dirt*, will appear in the February, March, and April issues of the magazine.

Katrina Hammell ('04) I just finished my second year of law school at the University of Minnesota. Among other things, I was able to compete on the University's International Moot Court Competition team in Chicago in February. This summer I'm working part time at Huot & Spangler, PLLP, a small firm in St. Paul. I'm also doing a corporate externship through the university where I work in-house in the legal department of Land O'Lakes. I volunteered for Minnesota Women Lawyers, where I have co-authored an article on the Minnesota Judiciary for their upcoming magazine and will also help present a continuing legal education class on the same subject this summer.

Midori Hatanaka ('88) On April 1, I moved to Seoul, South Korea and started studying Korean. I am still struggling with Korean, but I really enjoy being here. While staying in Seoul, I am also a freelance translator, so I avoided being jobless although I haven't done much and earned much!

Tracy Heims ('89) I'm still practicing International Patent Law in Seattle. The law firm is called Apex Juris, PLLC, and we are a patent boutique; i.e., we do patent prosecution, licensing, trademark, and are working with a firm that does litigation work. My business partner just moved here from Tokyo, and we are growing the firm.

Lisa Higgs ('97) It seems everyone was right—nothing changes your life like the arrival of a child. Since Thalia

Anne Kohler arrived on October 27, 2006, I have a) quit my job at the Minnesota Historical Society, b) learned to get by on interrupted sleep, and c) found out that making my daughter laugh can be the best part of any day. Thalia, at seven months, has no hair, no teeth, and no crawling abilities. I suspect this will all change soon.

Toby and I will be moving to Chicago in July of 2007 for one year while he does a fellowship at Northwestern University as a capstone to his urology residency.

Emily Hiscocks ('03) is currently teaching 8th Grade Reading and Language Arts at Clear Lake Middle School in Clear Lake, Iowa. She is head Varsity Volleyball Coach and the 7th Girls Basketball Coach.

Brian Kallback (BA '02, MA '04) The year went by fast and was enjoyable. Football and junior high girls track went well. The kids are fun . . . sometimes. They hired Angie Takes to teach English so now I am full-time in the history department. Actually, due to retirements, I am the Head of the History Department. But don't worry, I have been injecting literature into my history classes.

I've begun a Master's program at UNI for history. Nothing too big, just a class a year. Tammy is fine. She's still at Irving and coaching at Clarke. She loves teaching second grade and is looking forward to her class next year.

Father Bernard Kennedy, OFM ('81) is enjoying his ministry in the Franciscan Order as Prefect of Formation and Priestly Studies for the Assumption BVM Province. He is the Director of Post-Novitiate Formation at St. Joseph Interprovincial Friary in Hyde Park on Chicago's near south side. He is responsible for the student friars studying at Catholic Theological Union, St. Xavier University, and DePaul University while they prepare to take solemn vows and/or seek ordination. The house of studies has friars from the United States, Mexico, the Philippines, Vietnam, and China. Bernard continues to serve as a Provincial Councilor and is a member of the English-Speaking Conference of Formators.

DiAnn Kilburg (MA '04) I am currently employed by Loras College as the Interlibrary Loan Coordinator and have held the position for over twelve years. My degree assists me in putting professionalism in my every day life. And, as a direct result of my studies, I do proofreading for a couple of publishers in my spare time.

As of June 1st, I became Chair of the Loras Staff Organization, whose membership includes all non-faculty personnel at Loras. As of August 1, 2006, I will become President of the Iowa OCLC (software) Users' Group which will bring their annual conference to Loras in May of 2007. I am also involved in creating the first Midwest Interlibrary Loan Conference with the help of the Loras Library staff and the libraries across the Dubuque area.

Amy Kohlstedt ('03) After graduating from the University of Iowa last May with a Master's in Library and Informa-

tion Science, I took the position as Assistant Library Director at the Altoona Public Library in Altoona, Iowa. This was a newly created position that I've made my own over the past year. Although I do a little of everything, grant writing, scheduling, and cataloging new materials take up most of my time. My most exciting task this year will be to plan my wedding with Jeremy Turgasen (whom I met at Loras) scheduled for May of 2007.

Kate Leventhal ('00) I'm freelance writing for the Baltimore City Paper, which is much like the Village Voice is to New York. I'm doing some receptionist work to pay the bills and get some health insurance, but I've also submitted a grant proposal to a large foundation to start a newsletter that is entirely written and produced by people with HIV in Baltimore, hopefully to be distributed at area clinics and community centers. I am recently engaged to Adam, who I have been with for about 3 and a half years. He is a nephrologist and is finishing up his fellowship at Johns Hopkins.

Tricia (Fawcett) Lipski ('98) First, we both changed jobs within the last couple of months. I began my new solo law practice on January 1, 2006. I relocated my primary office from Washington to Fairfield. My practice has remained much the same. Tony has returned to the retail sales channel at U.S. Cellular. He's quickly getting readjusted to sales, and things have been quite busy there.

We will be welcoming a new baby to our house this summer! Baby #3 is due to be born sometime around the end of July. We don't know yet what we're having, but Joseph is thrilled to have a baby at home again!

Kathy Loewenberg (BA '87, MA '97) As I read through my last bio, I am struck by how content I am with my life and by how grateful I am for all that I am blessed with: a wonderful husband, a son and new daughter-in-law, a faithful dog, and lots of friends and extended family, all of whom I love dearly. We are healthy and happy in what we do. We have roofs over our heads, plenty of food, lots of support, and endless books to read. As the world gets smaller and smaller, the realized value of my blessings grows. This summer I will become a grandmother, which I am extremely excited about. Chris and Val are expecting a baby daughter in August. Life is good.

Ryan Lubben ('03) For the last year-and-a-half I have been working for Ken Cook Co. in Milwaukee—it's a company that specializes in technical publications for manufacturing companies. Lately I have been more involved in the XML and content management side of things. Actually, I've become somewhat of a programmer—which I enjoy because it's challenging.

My family is doing well. Shaina is going to school full-time, studying to be an interior designer. She loves the program and will graduate sometime next year. Kyra is now in 1st grade and Cody just turned 2.

Peggy Lucas ('03) I accepted a sales position for McGraw-Hill Higher Education and moved to Seattle, Washington, in September. I now live in an adorable neighborhood, on top of Queen Anne Hill. Who would have thought that I would ever live just a short walk away from the Space Needle? So, after almost a year here I have started to drink coffee (such a cliché, I know), become spoiled by Pike Street Market's fresh seafood and vegetables, and have realized that I will take the rain over snow any day. (At least I don't have to shovel rain!)

Bridget Lulay ('01) My biggest news . . . I got engaged right before New Year's, and Mike (my fiancé) and I have planned our wedding for May 26, 2007! Three of my four bridesmaids are Duhawks, and a bunch of other Duhawk friends plan on making the trip out East to celebrate, too!

I still work at Thomson Delmar Learning. My career continues to progress and give me new challenges. I'm now the sole Product Development Specialist on our Health Care Professional Business Unit, and I'm handling all aspects of production (copyediting, proofreading, graphic design, art, project management, etc.) for a plethora of online training, continuing education, reference, patient education, and software products geared towards hospitals, clinics, nurses, and other health care professionals. Since I started off my career on the print-side of publishing, I'm constantly amazed at how quickly the marketplace has developed a demand for strictly online materials.

Cara Lynch ('01) It is summer! That is all a sixth grade LA teacher could want. I'm still recovering from the whirlwind of last year, having stepped into a sixth grade teaching situation in October. I'll return to teach 7th grade LA next year, and the course will be somewhat team taught, as the Rio Rancho School District has a humanities focus. I'm keeping myself busy by hiking, writing, and eating lots of sopapillas.

Janet Marxen (BA '83, MA '94) joined Luther Village of Arlington Heights, IL, in November, 2005, as their Sales and Marketing Manager and Broker. Luther Village is a 60 acre retirement housing community and is the first full equity senior housing community in Illinois.

Melanie Mausser ('00) Following stints in Florida and Arizona, I am back in the Midwest for 2006, pursuing my songwriting and singing career. I spent the fall and winter of 2006 in Prescott, Arizona, and was able to really develop my music career by working as a cowgirl entertainer at Rancho de Los Caballeros and Kay El Bar guest ranches in Wickenburg, AZ. This summer I will be playing throughout the Dubuque area. In July, I will go on my first "tour" playing at Cheyenne Frontier Days in Wyoming, a few venues in Colorado and on to the Sturgis, South Dakota, bike rally where I will be playing the morning shows at the Sidehack Saloon. My first CD, "Cadillac Daddy," is scheduled to be out by the end of this month. If anyone's interested in my music they can hear it for themselves and see where I'm

playing at the following website: www.myspace.com/MelanieSueMausser.

Carissa McDonald ('98) I am still teaching at Clinton High School. They have me assigned mostly to social studies, but I also help out the English department now and then, typically with creative writing, though I've taught several of their courses. Right now, I am engaged in the curriculum writing process as curricular chair for 6-12 social studies.

I finished my Master's in English from Western Illinois University in December. While it's nice to be free of that stress, I really miss the class time.

Cassie (Sloan) McDonald ('01) Jamie and I are really excited to be back in Dubuque. We both had a great first year back here. Although I miss teaching English, especially the literature, I am really enjoying the Spanish classroom. Because I taught first year Spanish this year, I was able to see my students improve by leaps and bounds from September to June. This was really exciting for me. I am also thrilled to be back at Senior, which is where I student taught.

This summer I'll be spending about seven weeks in Spain at the University of Santiago de Compostela to begin work on my Master's degree. Jamie is flying over at the beginning of August for about three weeks, and we'll be traveling through Spain, Switzerland, and Italy—something we've wanted to do for a long time. My program continues for two more summers, but next summer will be the last one spent abroad. I'm definitely nervous, but truly excited at the same time. And because it's a Master's in Spanish (not Spanish education) it has a significant emphasis in literature, so in many ways it's the best of both worlds for me.

Kyle Murray ('95) I've accepted a position with the Employee Benefits Institute of America (EBIA) in Seattle, to begin in early April.

Kyle Neiss ('04) I am still teaching English at Johnsbury High School and coaching Varsity Football and Baseball. I teach Sophomore United States Literature and Writing and absolutely love it. On the personal front, I have a beautiful girlfriend who is also an English Teacher, and I couldn't be happier in the relationship. I have also started my Master's in School Leadership at Concordia University.

Andrew Neuendorf ('01) I just finished my MFA in Creative Writing at Texas State University where I taught College Writing 1 and 2 the past two years as a Teaching Assistant. My wife Melissa and I live in Austin, Texas. My poems have appeared in a few journals, including *Northwest Review*, *Double Room*, and *Measure: An Annual Review of Formal Poetry*. I also have a long prose poem that will soon be published in the journal *Sentence* and a sestina that will appear on McSweeney's Internet Tendency. I continue to work as a freelance writer for

Gourmet Curriculum Press, Inc, writing creative workbook passages that are used in classrooms in twenty-six states.

Emily Pringle ('02) I am starting school at the Willamette University College of Law in August, which means I will be moving to Salem, Oregon, while I take classes. I plan on enjoying this last summer of freedom! I am playing softball, hiking, and training for my second marathon. I also hope to do some kayaking, take a few float trips on the Deschutes River, and read as many books as I can before school starts.

Jennifer Reding ('03) I am making the final preparations for my June 24 wedding to Don Bloomquist. We will be living in Waterloo. I recently resigned at Independence High School and am seeking another job. I am hoping to find something closer to Waterloo. I am also signed up to take a couple art classes at Kirkwood this summer.

Rachael Rickertsen ('04) I finished, with much excitement, my first year of medical school at UI Carver College of Medicine. For the summer, I am participating in Medical Education and Community Outreach at Mercy Medical Center in Mason City, IA, where I get the chance to escape my desk and participate in the clinical side of medicine. I am also getting the opportunity to do some much anticipated fiction reading this summer and I am signing up for a literature elective next semester.

Jeremy ('97) and Nicole **Salucka** recently returned to Iowa from Belgrade, Serbia, where Jeremy served as the Senior Development Outreach & Communications Specialist for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) mission to Serbia and Montenegro.

Jeremy and Nicole recently relocated to Rochester, MN. Nicole is teaching at a charter school serving the local Somali population, and Jeremy to help Olmsted Medical Center to develop a new brand identity and marketing/communication strategy.

John Schlueter ('01) I'm officially A.B.D. at Loyola. I just finished a draft of the first chapter of my dissertation: "Our Missing Present: A History of the Contracted Future in 19th Century America." Jen Chojnacki and I will be married next June.

Molly Burrows Schumacher (BA '98, MA '04) Molly, her husband, Mike Schumacher, '99, their son, Max (4), and their dog Shelby, finally moved out of Keane Hall where Molly was working as the Area Coordinator for the past several years, and into their own house (it's a bit quieter than Keane Hall, and there are not nearly as many neighbors). Molly is currently working as the Director of Residence Life at Loras, and loves her new position (she began last June).

Kevin Shelton ('91) I get the opportunity to coach my sons Michael and Matthew on the same baseball team this sum-

mer. Michael is 8 and will be a third grader next year. He is very active with soccer and won the spelling bee for his class. He is a great kid and a great big brother. Matthew loves anything football related, and enjoys pick up games in the basement with his dad and grandpa. He loves to bake with his grandma, garden with his grandpa and really loves animals of all kinds—especially pandas.

After spending the last six years as an administrator for Nippersink Middle School, I start officially in July as the principal at Johnsbury High School in Johnsbury, IL. With the job change came a move to Johnsbury as well, and a change of schools for Michael and Matthew. Wendy has been home with the boys for the last 6 years, and will be returning to the classroom next year as both boys will be in school full time. She has accepted a first grade teaching position at Valley View Elementary School in McHenry.

Michele (Anderegg) Stuhr ('98) As of June 2006, I have completed my 8th year of teaching high school English and journalism classes at Webster City High School. Every year is always different, so my work never gets boring. On a personal note, my husband, Cory, and I have been married nearly four years, and our son Jamin will turn 3 in October. Joleah Anabele Stuhr was born Monday, June 19th at 8:49 PM. She weighed 6 pounds, 9 1/2 ounces, and she was 18 1/2 inches long. She has a full head of hair—dark at that—and she is our little princess.

Celia Venhuizen ('04) works in Madison, Wisconsin, for the medical software company Epic Systems Corporation. She has recently transitioned from the sales team into a role with the proposal writing team. Celia has been working at Epic since November of 2004. She lives in downtown Madison and, in her free time, enjoys visiting the farmer's market and relaxing with her friends. Celia received her Master's in English from the University of Madison.

Kathleen Volk ('06) Teaching has been outstanding—my students are my source of energy and enjoyment here. I do love Milwaukee. It took some getting used to after being a Dubuque County girl my entire life but the more that I explore the city, the more I enjoy it.

Two classes are on tap this summer—Chaucer and Women's Autobiography. I found out today that I have a job with the Freshman Frontier Program at Marquette, helping incoming first-years boost their composition skills before they start in August. It should be fun and keep me in the classroom, which is just where I want to be.

A.J. Walter (Alice Jane) (MA '78) Not much new in my life. Long term subbed in the gov't-soc-current events classroom the month of May so the teacher could spend a month as a staffer for Senator Harkin in DC. He had a fabulous time. Me? I learned things I'll never use again . . . computer grading, lesson inserts, web cam hook-up, and PowerPoint presentations . . . now this ol' lady learned to deal with stress and then had a good time.

Lindsey Weers ('04) Things are great here; I am very happy with my life at Palmer Chiropractic College! Right now everything is constant, never-ending—I always have another test to study for. Unfortunately, my summer break doesn't start until June 16th, and I start classes again on July 11th. I will enjoy my short 3-week break working with a chiropractor. Actually, the chiropractor has already offered me a position to work in her office when I graduate. She has a great practice so it's an awesome opportunity and I will learn a lot from her. I've been fitting in some fun; I am on an intramural softball team at Palmer and still trying to run now and again. Life is all about balance!

Catherine (Wegmann) Wilson ('99) I have some news to pass along—at the Homecoming English Dept. breakfast my husband and I were thinking we'd be heading to Central Asia this summer for the Peace Corps. Unfortunately, it didn't work out that way. However, at the same time I was pursuing a fellowship with the Boettcher Teachers Program in Denver, CO. Each year they select 15-20 fellows who commit to teaching 5 years in underserved schools in the Denver area. The first year is a "teaching residency" where you spend 4 days a week in a mentor teacher's classroom, and then become a teacher of record in your second year. At the same time, fellows earn their teaching licensure and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Urban Education. I spent a week out there in March interviewing with the program staff and school district personnel. I also met with four potential mentor teachers and had the opportunity to observe their classrooms throughout the week. This week I finally learned that I was selected for the Secondary English Boettcher Teaching Fellowship. Allen and I will be moving to the Denver area in early July, and I officially begin my fellowship on August 2.

Valorie Woerdehoff ('82) was named Assistant to the President at Loras this past September. She previously held the position of Director of Marketing at the college. She continues to write, as the demands of her "day job" and large family permit. This past year, a haiku of hers, "this snow moon," was accepted for publication by *Acorn*, a journal of contemporary haiku. She has been on staff at Loras for 12 years now, and enjoys getting the opportunity to visit with alumni when they are on campus. She reports that her family is doing well. Her third oldest, Christopher, graduated from Loras in 2004, and was activated for a tour of duty with the Marine Corps reserves in Iraq within weeks of graduation. Happily, he returned safely this past year.

Tim Wuebker ('90) Tim is still teaching college English and high school math. In his spare time, he socializes with family and friends. This July, he hopes to spend nine days in Guatemala. Since February 2006, he's run three marathons, all under four hours. He's struggling to learn Spanish and how to scuba dive.

Seniors, continued from pg. 10

Andy Mills plans to enter the business world by opening his own company. He is unsure, however, what services he will offer, though he hopes that the company will somehow utilize cardboard and paint, two of his favorite objects. However, if his business ventures fail, he will likely pursue a glamorous career as a writer for the Lorian or become a pro-wrestler.

Jen Childers, on the other hand, plans to have an easy summer before entering the professional world. She plans on working a summer job as she searches for a career in either the publishing or public relations field. With the money she earns in one of those fields, she plans to travel the world for a few weeks, visiting places she has always wanted to go—Morocco, Germany, Egypt, and Spain.

Megan Lester will also be actively seeking a career in the field of publishing. She currently has an internship at McGraw-Hill and hopes to be hired there or at another Dubuque publishing company.

Senior Kim Muenster will miss the way she has been able to efficiently produce her English papers in these past years. “I’m very good at managing my time,” Kim commented. Kim will be getting married this summer in Bellevue and plans to look for a career in which she can utilize her writing, business, and communication abilities. Seeking to pursue her interest in creative non-fiction, Kim will seek an MFA program in writing.

Michael Danaher also seeks to pursue graduate studies in English, though he is unsure whether he will study literature or writing. However, Michael still has one more semester in which he can savor his Loras English education. When contacted about this article, Michael responded with an extensive list of his favorite English department memories. Among them are Dr. Auge’s references to Bob Dylan, Dr. Bauerly’s convent tales, and watching a rendition of *Frankenstein* in Dr. Raschke’s Beginnings of the Novel course. Michael is especially pleased that, throughout his English education, he has been able to share fabulous courses with both undergraduate and graduate students.

Another English graduate who would like to attend graduate school is Hilary Hahn. Hilary was accepted to DePaul University’s Master of Arts in Writing program, but has not yet decided if she will work a year before entering graduate study. Her favorite Loras courses were from the Creative Writing major.

Thankfully, the fabulous Sarah Lauer will be back in Dubuque in the fall semester to student-teach. She will then take a test to get her teaching license in Minnesota. Following student teaching, Sarah plans to join either the Peace Corps or volunteer with Teach for America. After her volunteer experience, Sarah will apply to law school.

Good luck to our seniors—especially as they seek, after an exhausting finals week, to embark on the road back to sanity. Quoting Laura Coyne, “God help us all!”

Brimeyer, continued from pg. 1

erly.” Brimeyer believes that “A lot teaching is copy-cat. You find what works and pull it from here and pull it from there.” Donna Bauerly taught Brimeyer that a student-centered, high expectation classroom with active engagement works to take students to a higher level of thinking. Brimeyer credits Bauerly with the structure that he still uses in his classroom today.

Brimeyer currently teaches at NICC, where a reception was held to honor him for his Teacher of the Year award. When Jim gave his speech, he credited his success to many of the people in attendance—among them former teachers and students. He made his success their success.

What is Brimeyer’s biggest reward? “A million dollars couldn’t reward a person more than when you see a former student having success. It is just the ultimate satisfaction.”

Literary Club, continued from pg. 5

gave way to an excellent discussion.” Urgo also said that she and McNamara are excited about the coming year, and have high hopes that the younger members will continue using the Literary Club as a means to take “learning beyond the classroom.”

In addition to the discussions and the field trips, members (along with other Loras College students) were able to meet an exceptional poet. In the fall of 2005, Eavan Boland was on campus for an Irish Writer’s Conference (*see related story, page 4*). Students were able to attend a discussion with the highly regarded poet.

Another writer that the members of the Literary Club were able to meet was Native American best seller, Louise Erdrich, when she spoke at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library. As in Boland’s visit to Loras College, students were able to listen to her read excerpts of her most recently published work.

The Literary Club has already picked out reading material for this summer, which includes *Gilead*. The members will return in the fall and have discussions about the book. Urgo commented that all members are hopeful that Marilynne Robinson, author of *Gilead*, will be available to come for discussion. Urgo “encourages everybody to join us, not only to meet Robinson, but also to read the book and join in on the discussion.”

Finally, members were able to contribute to the Friends of Library book sale and attend some of their events. Dr. Stone was eager to mention that she looks forward to next year and anticipates continued growth in the number of members. She was quick to note that all are welcome including English majors, minors, or other students. The Literary Club will have a table set up at campus fest, which Dr. Stone hopes will initiate interest among other students.

