

# THE INTERLOCUTOR

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Official Newsletter of the Humanities & Teacher Education Division of Seaver College

## Greetings From Maire Mullins, Chair



Dr. Maire Mullins  
Division Chair

The value of the liberal arts, and of the humanities in particular, has recently come under scrutiny in our culture because of the perceived lack of practical application for these degrees. The argument is that one should be trained specifically for a particular job. However, this argument does not take into consideration the following lifelong skills that any successful professional will need in order to advance: critical thinking skills; oral and written communication skills; ethical decision making skills, and cultural literacy. In a recent survey of employers conducted by the American Association of Colleges and Universities, the following intellectual skills were identified as being most important by Employers:

Written and Oral Communication (89%); Critical Thinking/ Analytic Reasoning (81%); Ethical Decision Making (75%); and Complex Problem Solving (75%). This Employer data is drawn from *Raising the Bar: Employers' Views on College Learning in the Wake of Economic Downturn* (AAC&U Research Associates, 2010). What this reveals is that our culture is in more need than ever of strong liberal arts programs, and strong humanities programs that foster intellectual curiosity and the intellectual skills that go hand in hand with the development of the whole person. This is the heart of our mission in the HUTE Division.

## Sigma Tau Delta has "Hearts for Haiti"

On Tuesday, January 12, 2010, a catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. An estimated three million people were affected by the quake; the Haitian government reports that between 217,000 and 230,000 people have died, around 300,000 were injured, and an estimated 1,000,000 are homeless. They also believe that 250,000 residences and 30,000 commercial buildings collapsed or were severely damaged. The quake is thought to be the worst on record since 1977.

The Humanities and Teacher Education Division's English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta, undertook a "Hearts for Haiti" campaign to raise money for humanitarian aid for Haiti.

Handcrafted valentine poetrygrams were available for purchase that included candy and carefully chosen poems. The valentines were designed by talented student Cazz Brindis, a Creative Writing major, Film minor and musician. Poems included selections from such authors as Shakespeare and Sylvia Plath. Honor Society members delivered the poetrygrams to campus mailboxes and offices to surprise recipients. Sigma Tau

Delta sold around 175 Valentines, and the proceeds were donated to the Red Cross.

Sigma Tau Delta currently has 52 members including English Literature, Writing and Rhetoric, and Creative Writing majors and minors. Dr. Julie Smith is the Faculty advisor for the honor society.



Pepperdine "Graphics" newspaper article

## Adventures in Owens Valley: A Historical Look into the Past.

Professors Stewart Davenport and Darlene Rivas took a dozen History majors on a tour of California's Owens Valley. Just in case you don't know exactly where that is, the Owens Valley is most commonly known as "what you drive through to get to Mammoth." This is unfortunate because the Owens Valley is a place of tremendous beauty, as well as fascinating natural and human history. It is precisely this history—which so many Angelenos pass on their way to ski—that our majors wanted to learn, and that we were more than happy to show them.



It is fair (although forgotten) role in the development of our very own Los Angeles. If you've seen the movie *Chinatown* and know something about the often violent conflicts over water rights in southern California, this should ring a bell. Since our historical tour started in Los Angeles, we followed the path of the water back to its source, stopping at Jawbone Canyon, a place where disgruntled Owens Valley farmers repeatedly dynamited the aqueduct to protest the loss of their livelihoods.

Our next stop was the Cerro Gordo ghost town, over 8,000 feet up in the Inyo Mountains. To get there we drove up the very adventurous and beautiful old mining road, climbing almost a vertical mile from our starting point at Owens Lake to the ghost town itself.

Completely unknown to most Angelenos, Cerro Gordo was both the largest silver mine in all of California as well as an economic boon to Los Angeles in the 1870s.

In Los Angeles, merchants outfitted the mule trains, sold equipment for the mining operation, and safely stored the silver prior to shipment to San Francisco. All of this economic activity transformed L.A. from a sleepy little pueblo into a bustling port city.



Our guide, Mike Patterson, told us more of the history of the town. We explored the mine itself (safely, though), the rugged and remote surroundings, and of course the town saloon, complete with a piano and twenty-foot-long bar. This is no movie set, but the genuine article, and the oldest building many of us had ever seen in California. It was nice for us to step out of metallic Los Angeles and feel taken back in time to the real-deal Wild West.



The next day we enjoyed a wonderful service of prayer and scripture readings in the open air in the midst of the beautiful Alabama Hills at the foot of Mt. Whitney. These strange looking rounded boulders form a massive rock forest that makes you feel like you are on the surface of another planet. Location scouts for Hollywood filmmakers have thought the same and used this area as a backdrop for countless movies from science fiction to good old American Westerns. For example, both John Wayne and Hopalong Cassidy shot dozens of movies and TV shows here, and stayed at the Dow Villa when they were in the area.

## Dr. Lisa Smith Receives Brett J. Love Award



The Humanities and Teacher Education Division is proud to honor Dr. Lisa Smith as the seventh recipient of the Brett J. Love Award, which was created in honor of Dr. Brett Love, who passed away in April of 2003. The award recognizes those who demonstrate the qualities of teaching that Dr. Love possessed himself: inspirational, stimulating, challenging, and willing to go beyond the basic content of the course to develop the student's ability to think critically and creatively about the world. The recipient must be a non-tenure

track professor in the Humanities and Teacher Education division.

Dr. Smith has been an adjunct professor at Pepperdine since the fall of 2006 when she moved to California from Delaware. She teaches various English courses ranging from Business Writing to Early American Literature, where she challenges her students to think critically about their reading and writing skills.

Dr. Smith received her Ph.D.

from the University of Delaware where she taught part-time before moving to the West Coast. She is married, has two children, and lives in Thousand Oaks. She enjoys playing sports, traveling (Prague was a recent highlight), and speaking at church women's groups.

## Finding the Real Anna Karenina by John Struloeff

For about five years now I've been researching Leo Tolstoy's life, in particular his spiritual transformation while writing *Anna Karenina*, with the intent of writing a biographical novel. My grandfather was Russian, and Tolstoy's writings helped fund his religious community's exodus from the country, so my interest is much more than academic. This past year I was awarded two grants — a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship and a Dean's Research Grant (from Seaver College) — both of which combined to pay for a trip to Russia, a long-held dream of mine.

I went alone in May and June of 2009, splitting my time between Moscow, where Tolstoy held a summer home, and his very large, rural estate 200 km south in Yasnaya Polyana. It was an amazing experience to visit the Kremlin, St. Basil's Cathedral, Gorky Park, the Bolshoi Theater, and the peaceful Tolstoy home in Moscow, where I spent some of my time writing on a bench in the back garden.

The largest part of the trip, however, was at Yasnaya Polyana, where Tolstoy wrote each of his three major novels. The property was vast, filled with dense



forests of birch and lime and orchards of apple trees, laced with trails for the thirty horses in their stable. The Voronka River winds its way across the north section, through a long hay field that served as the setting of the famous haying scene in *Anna Karenina*. Seeing Tolstoy's unmarked grave in the forest, a small loaf of bread and cup of water laid atop the soil, as well as viewing the room where *Anna Karenina* was written, were both solemn and humbling experiences. But the true surprise was discovering the grave at a nearby church of the 'real' Anna, the distraught neighbor who had thrown herself beneath a train and who gave her first life for this wonderful and painful story.

*John Struloeff directs the Creative Writing Programs and is the author of The Man I was Supposed to Be, Loom Press 2008.*

## Return of the "JAZZ AGE" MTP Celebrates 10 Years

Celebrating its tenth year, the Multicultural Theatre Project at Seaver College has created a safe, artistic platform for students and the Pepperdine community to explore difference. This year, the Multicultural Theatre Project presented the "JAZZ AGE" February 11th through 13th in Raitt Recital Hall on the Malibu campus. The "JAZZ AGE" is an original production written and directed by Dr. Joi Carr, Assistant Professor of English at Seaver College. The production examines America's most dynamic decade, the 1920s, when "People were exploring their individuality and newfound freedom from the world



*2010 MTP Cast*

of fashion to religion and world politics. The pull of the big city with automobiles and modern conveniences made the world a much smaller place," says Dr. Carr. The production featured a collection of monologues, fiction, poetry, and nonfiction prose. Dr. Carr hopes that the audience was moved by the presentation of this extraordinary time in American history- both the exuberance and the complexity of the era. "I hope they left feeling encouraged by the stories and reflecting on the fragility and delicate balance of life in the modern world."

## SAAJ Welcomes New Members



**2010 SAAJ "POSSE" SCHOLARS**

the country. Nationally, Posse Scholars have won \$329 million in scholarships from Posse's partner institutions and are persisting and graduating at a rate of 90 percent—significantly above the national average.

In the Fall of 2010 ten Posse scholars will be part of the Social Action and Justice Colloquium. Posse partner colleges and universities award Posse Scholars four year, full tuition leadership scholarships.

The concept of a Posse works for both students and college campuses and is rooted in the belief that a small, diverse group of talented students—a Posse—carefully selected and trained, can serve as a catalyst for increased individual and community development

Posse started because of one student who said, "I never would have dropped out of college if I had my posse with me." That simple idea of sending a group of students to college together to act as a support

system for one another was the impetus for a program that today has become one of the most comprehensive college access programs in the United States.

Vanderbilt University was Posse's first partner institution and took a Posse of five students from New York City in 1989. Four years after setting foot on Vanderbilt's campus, all five members of Vanderbilt Posse 1 graduated with honors and accolades.

Since then, Posse has sent 3,110 Scholars to top-tier colleges and universities throughout

The SAAJ Program is an interdisciplinary program focused on issues of social justice such as human rights, wealth and poverty, the interplay of religion and culture, and the role of media in shaping social movements. The program includes historical, theoretical and practical perspectives on social issues, providing knowledge and opportunities for social action.

## Who's Who in Humanities?

Once upon a long, long, long, long, (well you get the picture), time ago there were children who grew up to be members of the HUTE Division. Can you guess who these beautiful children are?



a



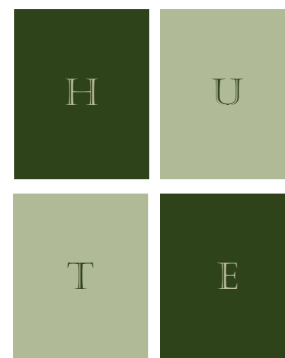
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c: Dr. Steve Parnellee d: Mrs. Genny Moore

answers: a: Dr. Jeff Banks b: Dr. Mason Marshall



## Highlight in Teacher Education: *Kappa Delta Pi*

### A Brief History

Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, is dedicated to scholarship and excellence in education. The Society is a community of scholars that recognizes scholarship and excellence in education, promotes the development and dissemination of worthy educational ideas and practices, enhances the continuous growth and leadership of its diverse membership, fosters inquiry and reflection on significant educational issues, and maintains a high degree of professional fellowship.

### Current Officers

President- Megan Runnels  
Secretary – Rebecca Ellson  
Sentential Liaison – Tara Zink

Vice President – Claire Dennard  
Membership Chair – Karissa Taylor and Samantha Morrow  
Faculty Advisor - Dr. Damian Jenkins

### Our Current Cause

With literacy in the state of California being at an all-time low, members are very concerned that some classrooms in the city do not have enough books for each student to read. Kappa Delta Pi has decided to bring awareness of this challenge by hosting a book drive and literacy challenge. This drive is for books as well as monetary donations. With the donations received, Kappa Delta Pi will purchase books for students in several under-served kindergarten classes in the city.

### Kappa Delta Pi's Motto

SO TO TEACH... SO TO SERVE.... SO TO LIVE!

## HUTE DIVISION

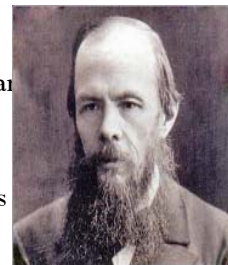
### STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

#### RUSSIA

Professor Paul J. Contino is recruiting students for English 380: "Dostoevsky and the Russian Religious Tradition." This class taught in Russia, at Saint Petersburg Christian University (where students will live), and will be held from May 2-June 3, 2011. The class will focus upon the literary and religious traditions of Russia, as seen through the lens of the final and greatest novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky, The Brothers Karamazov. Students enrolled will also take a class in Russian History.

In English 380, we will study the ways in which The Brothers Karamazov raises perennial religious questions through the literary form of his novel. Some of these questions include: Can human persons imitate Christ-like love? How so? If God is good, why do innocent children suffer? Is freedom too weighty a burden? How far does our responsibility to each other go? When we fail to be responsible, how can repentance take an adequate form? In addition to this novel, we will also read and discuss shorter works drawn from the Russian religious tradition to provide context not only for our study of Dostoevsky's narrative imagination, but for our exploration of the churches, icons, music, and liturgy of Christian Russia — especially in St. Petersburg, but with travels to Moscow and other places as well.

*Are you interested? If so, please email [Paul.Contino@pepperdine.edu](mailto:Paul.Contino@pepperdine.edu) Places in this program are limited, so please contact Professor Contino as soon as possible!*



#### LONDON

Dr. Julie Smith is recruiting English majors to live, learn and do research in London, Summer 2011. Students may take two upper-division English classes, one of which will be ENG 440 Literary London in the Nineteenth Century. The class will include research in London library archives and special collections as well reading-related local field trips and a term paper that will be suitable for sending out for publication, reading at a conference, or use in a graduate school application or professional writing portfolio. Dr. Smith is also recruiting students interested in the writings of C.S. Lewis for a separate program in the UK late in the summer of 2011. This course is open to all majors; students will receive credit for ENG 380. The details for this program are still being worked out but will definitely include one week in Oxford and one week in Cambridge. Contact Dr. Smith to let her know you are interested or to get more details. ([jsmith@pepperdine.edu](mailto:jsmith@pepperdine.edu))



# ALUMNI NEWS



## Three HUTE Students Receive Fulbrights

Seven Pepperdine University Students were awarded winners of the prestigious Fulbright award for 2010-2011. Three of these winners are students in the Humanities and Teacher Education Division: (Pictured below left to right) Colby Long (English Literature), Stephanie Meza (English Literature) and Samantha Morrow (English/Education). All three award winners will be completing English Teaching Assistantships in their chosen countries



**Colby Long**, who graduated in May 2009 with a bachelor's degree in English Literature, will travel to Macedonia to conduct an international classroom-to-classroom poetry exchange between Macedonian and US students. He has partnered with an English high school teacher and a college professor in US to participate, via the Internet, in the exchange of ideas, which will improve the conversational English of the students in Macedonia and help them to learn more about American culture. Long graduated magna cum laude and made the Academic Dean's List in every year he was a Pepperdine student.

Having earned a bachelor's degree in English Literature with a minor in Spanish, **Stephanie Meza** ('10) will journey to Spain to pursue her passion for teaching as a Fulbright Scholar. In Spain, she will share her own experiences of biculturalism, which she was able



to channel into her experiences at Pepperdine as a member of the Pepperdine Latino Student Association from 2006. She also served her bicultural passion in Argentina in 2008, where she participated in community service programs in Buenos Aires, focusing on language enrichment and cultural engagement, and interned with the Consulate General of Argentina for three months.

**Samantha Morrow** ('10, magna cum laude) was already earning her teaching credential when she began working with a teenage English Language Learner who had emigrated from Korea. Morrow discovered, to her surprise, just how curious she was to learn more about the Korean education system and culture. She joined the Korean Student Association in Fall 2009, and as a new Fulbright Scholar in Korea she will lead a letter-writing club for



her students and maintain a blog for Korean and American students to communicate and learn. The plan follows smoothly from her experiences as a student at Pepperdine, including a stint on the peer review board for Pepperdine's International Studies online academic journal, GlobalTides, and membership in Sigma Tau Delta (the International English Honor Society), and Kappa Delta Pi (the International Honor Society in Education). Morrow earned her teaching credential as part of the PepSTEP undergraduate professional training program in conjunction with her bachelor's degree in English; upon her return to America, she plans to channel her experience in Korea into an immediate career as a secondary school teacher.

# FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



## **Dr. Carrie Birmingham**

"Preparing the Soil: The Mission of Christian Teachers in Public Schools" *Stone-Campbell Journal*, 12(2) Fall 2009, 193-206.

"The Disposition of Hope in Teaching" *Teacher Education Quarterly*, 36(4), Fall 2009, 27-40

## **Dr. Caleb Clanton**

"Can Peircean Epistemic Perfectionists Bid Farewell to Deweyan Democracy?" with Andrew T. Forcehimes, *Contemporary Pragmatism*, Vol. 6.2 (Dec. 2009): 165-183,

Review of Christopher J. Voparil, *Richard Rorty: Politics and Vision, Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, Vol. 45.2 (2009): 240-244.

## **Dr. Cyndia Clegg**

*Censorship and the Press, 1580-1720: Volume I, 1580-1640*. London: Pickering and Chatto Publishers, 2009.

"Print and Parliament in the Reign of Elizabeth." *Studies in Elizabethan Print Culture*. Ed. John King. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

"Shakespeare and the Uncommon Law" *Ben Jonson Journal* 16 (2009): 216-247.

Review of Grace Tiffany *The Road to Jerusalem, F. Thomas Noonan, and Love's Pilgrimage, Christianity and Literature* 58(2009), 510-19.

## **Dr. Paul Contino**

"Incarnational Realism in *The Brothers Karamazov*: Alyosha and Grushenka." Forthcoming in *Finding a Common Thread: Reading Great Texts from Homer to O'Connor* (University of Scranton Press).

"Introduction: The Pilgrim's Path to Freedom." Forthcoming in Dante, *The Divine Comedy* Trans. Burton Raffel (Northwestern University Press).

"Introduction: The Pilgrim's Path to Freedom." Forthcoming in Dante.: *The Divine Comedy*. Trans. Burton, Raffel, Northwestern University Press.

"Incarnational Realism and the Case for Casuistry: Dmitri Karamazov's Escape" Forthcoming in *The Brothers Karamazov: Art, Creativity, and Spirituality*. Ed Pedrag Cicovacki and Maria Granik. (Universitätsverlag C. Winter Heidelberg).

"Mansfield Park and Isaiah 53: Fanny Price as Suffering Servant." Forthcoming in Ignatius Press critical edition of Jane Austen's novel.

"Tolstoy." Forthcoming in *The Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization*. Ed. George Kurian. Blackwell Publishing.

"William Lynch's *Christ and Apollo and the Field of Religion and Literature*." *Religion and Literature* 41.2 (Summer, 2009).

Review of Janet Tucker, *Profane Challenge and Orthodox Response in Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment*, Forthcoming in *Canadian Slavic Journal*.

Review of Roger Lundin, *Believing Again*, Forthcoming in *Religion and Literature*.

"Ways of Being Catholic." Review-essay on Paul Wilkes, *In Due Time* and James Carroll, *Practicing Catholic. The Christian Century*, December 29, 2009.

Review of Francis C. Rossow, *Gospel Patterns in Literature. Concordia Journal* 35.3 (Summer, 2009).

## **Dr. Michael Gose**

"My Worst Teacher" *Kappa Delta Pi Record* Spring 2010 . Vol 46 No. 3

## **Dr. Leslie Kreiner Wilson**

"A Little North of Hollywood (Or, Dimly and in Flashes)" The Poetry Press 2009

*Americana: Readings in Popular Culture*, Ed. Leslie Kreiner Wilson, Revised and re-published by Press Americana and adopted by American Military University/American Public University

## **Dr. Donald Marshall**

"Paradigms, Conversation, Prayer: Liberal Arts in Christian Colleges." *Pedagogy* 10(2010): 183-200.

## **Dr. Mason Marshall**

"Revisiting Gender-Inclusive God-Talk: A New Wesleyan Argument" (with J. Aaron Simmons) *Philosophy and Theology* 20.1.2 (2009): 243-263

## **Dr. Julianne Smith**

"John Maddison Morton." *The Dictionary of Literary Biography: Nineteenth-Century British Dramatists*. Vol. 344. Ed. Angela Courtney. Detroit: Gale, 2009. 250-60.

## **Dr. James Thomas**

"Repotting Harry Potter: Popular Lit Made Legit," in *Hog's Head Conversations: Essays on Harry Potter*, ed. Travis Prinzi. Allentown, PA: Zossima Press, 2009



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