



English Dept Newsletter

Please forward items for inclusion to Carla Peticrew: carlap@sandiego.edu

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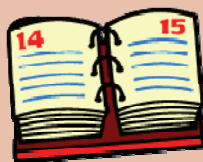
SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Oct 3:** Intersession Registration Begins
- **Oct 7:** AS Research Grant Proposals due
- **Oct 9:** Fred Robinson speaks at "Shades of Gogol" event
- **Oct 14:** Intersession Study Abroad deadline
- **Oct 21:** Cropper Series—Claudia Rankine, Poet

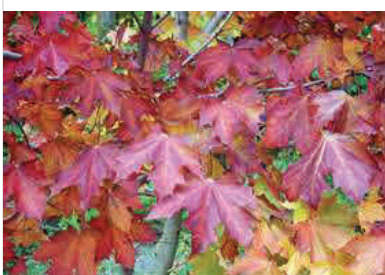
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Announcements

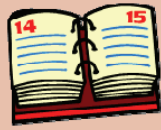
- **The Writing Center** has initiated a **Tutor Creative Corner** within the Center. Drop by Founders 190B and see the latest art installation (*pictured at right*) by Greg Piscane. This piece represents the Writing Center as a whole; it is a multimedia piece with literature, but the book itself isn't the heart of it. The installation is meant to illustrate that, with thought, the text of any subject will unravel and reveal its beauty to the reader.
- **Sun, Oct 2, 7:30pm in the French Parlor, Founders Hall: "The Mysterious Dwarf."** This is a one-person show that Theatre Arts Prof. Terry Glaser wrote about Nikolai Gogol (his life and works), in which Dr. Glaser portrays the man himself! Free event.
- **Mon, Oct 3: Intersession 2012 Registration begins.** Sign up for Intersession 2012! Classes run January 3 through January 23, 2012. **ENGL 228 Monsters and Humans**, Dr. Abraham Stoll is being offered by the English Department. Or take Intersession Study Abroad with Dr. David Hay **ENGL 280 Shakespeare** in London.
- **Tue, Oct 4, 12:00-1:45pm in Salomon Hall (in Maher): Luncheon Panel—Expanding Our View of Inclusion.** As USD continues to expand its efforts to achieve a more diverse community and proposed changes in the core curriculum open up new questions about USD's Catholic identity, it is useful to ask just



what we mean by diversity. This forum, aimed towards both faculty and students, will explore this issue. Panelists include Dr. Qamar-ul Huda, senior program officer in the Religion and Peacemaking Program at the U.S. Institute of Peace. Panelists will be representing a different religious tradition (Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Daoist, and Muslim.) An open, moderated discussion will follow. Those who register will receive lunch, which will be served promptly at noon. Please RSVP at <http://www.sandiego.edu/cee/events/registration.php> by Sep 30 or by calling the CEE at 619-260-7402 or e-mailing cee@sandiego.edu.

- **Sun, Oct 9, 7:30pm in French Parlor, Founders: "Shades of Gogol."** This will be a joint presentation given by **English professor Dr. Fred Robinson** ("The Weirdness of Literature") and Philosophy professor Dr. Dennis Rohatyn ("Gogol in Gogoltha"). **"The Weirdness of Literature," by Fred Robinson:** students of literature are often taught to create "meaning" from a text through a process of abstraction, coming up with a rational, formulated thesis that is meant to calm down the experience of reading the text, of encountering and responding to its hectic, dynamic, volatile, disturbing, discomfoting, and pleasurable life. Literature's "meaning" needs to be drawn from that life, not abstracted from it. Many of the most respected works of literature are manic, comic, irrational, weird. Gogol's weirdness provides an occasion to bring up instances of weirdness in literature, in both canonical and ignored texts. Free event.
- **Fri, Oct 21, 7:00pm in KIPJ Theatre. The Lindsay J. Cropper Memorial Writers Series: Claudia Rankine, Poet.** Born in Kingston, Jamaica and educated at Williams College and Columbia University, Claudia Rankine is the author of four collections of poetry, including the award-winning *Nothing in Nature is Private*. In





Announcements continued



“Nothing
which has
entered into
our experience
is ever lost.”

—William Ellery
Channing



The End of the Alphabet and Plot, she welds the cerebral and the spiritual, the sensual and the grotesque. Her latest book, *Don't Let Me Be Lonely*—an experimental multi-genre project that blends poetry, essays, and image—is a deeply personal exploration of the condition of fragmented selfhood in contemporary America. Rankine co-edited the anthology *American Women Poets in the 21st Century: Where Lyric Meets Language*, and her work is included in several anthologies, including *Great American Prose Poems: From Poe to the Present*, *Best American Poetry 2001*, *Giant Step: African American Writing at the Crossroads of the Century*, and *The Garden Thrives: Twentieth Century African-American Poetry*. Her work has been published in numerous journals including *Boston Review* and *Tri-Quarterly*. She lives and teaches in California. Reception to follow. Free and open to the public

- **Tue, Oct 25, 12:00-1:30pm in UC Forum B. “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,” by Rebecca Skloot.** This is an Alcala Park Readers book discussion presented by the Department of Human Resources. Lunch will be served — please RSVP for lunch at ext. 6611.
- **The Writing Center welcomes new tutors** Rachel, Kym, Alyssa, Jessica, and Davis (pictured). Welcome aboard! The Writing Center is now open. For more information: www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/writing_center or call x 4581.
- **The English Office has a new Work-Study student, Shannon Palka**, this year. Shannon is a freshman, major undeclared (leaning towards Communications), and is interested in political science, philosophy, and English courses. She is from Thousand Oaks, CA (Los Angeles area). She’s here to help you out, so if you’re in the English office (F 174), introduce yourself and she can assist you. Welcome Shannon!

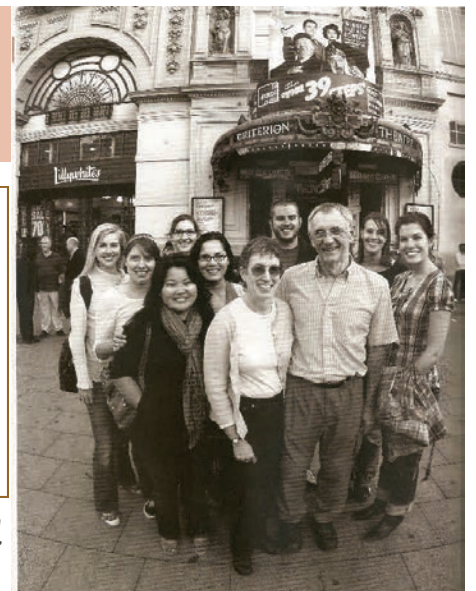


Student News

English Department abroad: Students, fulfill your **ENGL 280: Shakespeare** requirement in England!! Join Dr. David Hay and the Bard in Oxford, Stratford and London for three weeks during Intersession (Jan 2-21, 2012). Space is limited to 14, and the **deadline to register is October 14**. For more information, contact Dr. Hay at dhay@sandiego.edu or x7763, or the International Center <http://gointernational.sandiego.edu/>



Pictured at right: English professors Cynthia Caywood & David Hay with students from Summer 2008 London, at production of “39 Steps.”



Anna Halligan spent her summer interning at **Entertainment Tonight**, where she worked as a researcher, writer and production assistant. She is studying at St. Clare’s, Oxford, England this Fall. The following is her paper “ET Internship in Review”:

It has always bothered me that I do not know exactly what I want out of my life. As a goal-oriented person, it has always seemed somehow counter-productive to work toward no specific end, despite the reminders of countless older and wiser individuals that I’m young, I have time, and life will take me in many directions that defy expectations. But my goal for this summer was not to find myself, or to discover my passion—it was simply to learn. Explore options. Find out what I’m good at. (Continued on Page 6)



Fri, Oct 7: deadline for Associated Students Research Grant Proposals. Students, apply for research funding this fall! More information: http://www.sandiego.edu/associatedstudents/branches/vice_president/academics/research_faqs.php or contact Jackie Harris at jacquelineh-12@sandiego.edu

Providence College PACT: a two year service teaching program in the Providence Alliance for Catholic Teachers (PACT). Seniors, consider this opportunity to contribute two years of your life in service to young people in Catholic schools while earning a fully funded graduate degree in education. New England's service-teaching program for recent college graduates (including those with English majors) allows you to teach in New England Catholic schools for two years; live in intentional faith-based communities. Earn a master's degree in education from Providence College and become eligible for teacher certification. For more info & application dates: www.providence.edu/pact or call 401-865-2657, or ask Carla in English office for brochure & flyer.

The MATCH Corps, a highly selective one-year urban education fellowship, is looking for top-notch seniors who are interested in joining next year's Corps. To apply, just fill out this form: <http://apply.matcheschool.org/apply.php>. The MATCH Corps program began in 2004 and is the first of its kind in the nation. The Corps is a group of 135 top recent college graduates who work one-on-one with six to eight MATCH High School, Middle School, or Elementary School students each day for an entire academic year. Corps members live together in apartments nearby the Middle School and Elementary School, and in a dorm on the top floor of the High School. All three schools are open-admission Charter Public Schools in Boston, MA. This full-time service year program is designed to fully close the academic Achievement Gap between minority students and their non-minority peers, one student at a time. Each Corps member works to guarantee the academic success of MATCH students while building personal relationships. Corps members also undertake secondary projects such as serving as teaching assistants, and may also coach teams and power extracurricular programs. www.matcheschool.org

*"The more
I want to get
something done,
the less
I call it work."

-Richard Bach*

Between Sep 15-Nov 15: Norton Anthology Student Recitation Contest. As a part of their 50th anniversary celebration, Norton announces their first ever Norton Anthology Student Recitation Contest! College and high school students worldwide are invited to submit an original video recitation of one of eight preselected works. Top submissions will be featured on the W. W. Norton website, where Norton editors, students, and fans will vote on the winners. Winners will receive Barnes & Noble gift cards and will have their name included on the acknowledgments page of a Norton Anthology. More info: <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/aboutcontent.aspx?id=17824&mid=64>

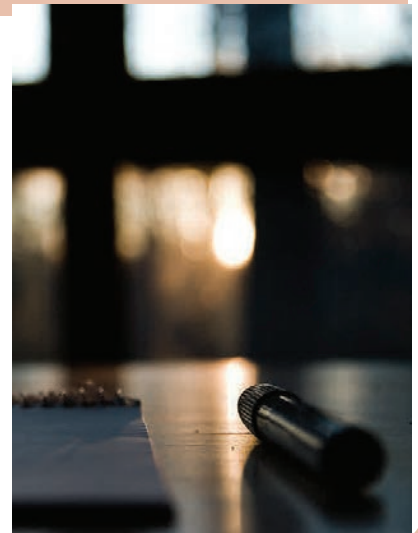


Faculty News

Wed, Sep 28, 10:00-11:30am in DAC. A Jane for All Seasons: Why We Have Always Read Jane Austen. English professor **Dr. Cynthia Caywood**, will discuss at USD's Bridges Academy Lecture (continuing education program for those ages 55 and older) on Austen's literary reputation and her influence on both high and popular culture during the two hundred years since she first published in 1811. From the devoted admiration of King George IV to modern parodies like *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, the works of Jane Austen have never lost their popularity. Austen may have dismissed herself as "the most unlearned and ill-informed female ever to have been an authoress," but she is widely regarded as one of England's greatest novelists.

ITS is continuing **Blackboard 9** training classes — here are October's course offerings:
Tue, Oct 4, 11:00am-12:00pm in SH 156A: Intro Blackboard 9.1 Learning Modules.
Tue, Oct 11, 11:00am-12:00pm in SH 156A: Intro Blackboard 9.1 Multimedia Integration.
Mon, Oct 31, 12:30-1:00pm in SH 156B: Blackboard 9 Show & Tell.

Come learn Blackboard 9, which allows for greater collaboration and an easy-to-use interface.





Faculty News *continued*



Wed, Oct 12, 12:00-1:00pm in Salomon Hall: Employee Bingo! Bring your lunch & some friends & come win some great prizes! Open to all faculty, staff, and administrators.

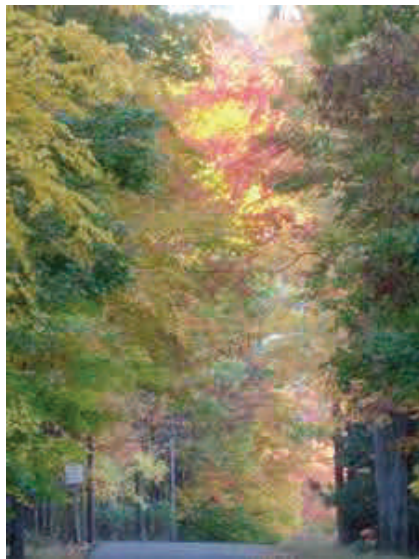
Bart Thurber, PhD, English Department, has been recognized as one of the “300 Best Professors” by *The Princeton Review*! He will be profiled in a new publication by *The Princeton Review* due for release in April 2012. Congratulations to him on this recognition!

Bart Thurber, PhD, English Department, spoke at **San Diego Opera’s Community Conversations “In Search of the Whale: Herman Melville’s Moby-Dick”** event on 9/27/11, at the San Diego Maritime Museum. A lively conversation about Melville’s *Moby-Dick*, its many themes including sea-faring, 19th century whaling and how this monumental novel became a gripping opera.

Gail Perez, PhD, Ethnic Studies/English Departments, published a two-part feature, “Through Our Blood: Restoration of Historic Chicano Murals Begins” and “Revitalization Not Restoration: A People’s Art,” in *La Prensa de San Diego*. She co-authored the second piece with Chicano Artist David Avalos, who also did the photographs. She has obtained funding from the Center on Diversity and Inclusion at USD and from CLAH UCSD to create a video archive of interviews with artists who will be participating in the \$1.6 million restoration project at San Diego’s historic Chicano Park.

English Department adjunct **Anne Wilson** learned that four of her poems had been translated into French for inclusion in an Algerian/French anthology **2X12**, and edited by Andrea Moorhead, ed. of **Osiris** (Deerfield, MA). This anthology came out in June, 2011. She also received notification that three of her other poems were included in the most recent issue of **Weber: The Contemporary West**, where she has previously been a winner of the Dr. Sherwin W. Howard Award. Anne recently returned from Florence, Italy where the highlight of her trip was a private retreat and time spent writing in Assisi.

“Painting
and
writing
are
solitary arts.”
—Conrad
Hall



Alumni News

Luis Dau, 1999, an Interdisciplinary Humanities major with a concentration in English, is one of three Gunnar Hedlund Best Dissertation Award Finalists for 2010/2011. He will present his work at a joint session at the EIBA (European International Business Academy) annual conference which this year will be held in Bucharest, Romania, in December 2011. Dau’s dissertation in international business is “Profiting from Globalization: Pro-market reforms, firm internationalization strategy, and firm profitability in developing countries”, University of South Carolina.

Alyssa Crow, 2011, an English major and who also served as the Sigma Tau Delta President a few years back, is currently working in ITS at USD. In December she will join Mokpo English Village in Korea where she will be teaching English to students from Kindergarten to Class 8. Alyssa is very excited and cannot wait to travel and live abroad teaching English. She hopes her next stop will be Japan!





Be Blue, Go Green

Sustainability Expo and Film Screening of *Carbon Nation*



On **Fri, Oct 7**, in Hahn UC Plaza and Forums, there is a Sustainability Expo and film screening of *Carbon Nation*, a documentary film about energy solutions that boost the economy, increase national security and promote a healthy, clean environment.

5:00–6:00pm - Sustainability Expo, featuring carbon busting San Diego businesses and organizations.

6:00pm - Film Introduction by Len R. Hering, Sr., RADM, USN (Ret.), USD Vice President of Business Services and Administration. Mr. Hering is driving USD's pursuit of being the most sustainable campus in America by 2025.

6:15-8:30pm - Carbon Nation Film Screening and Q&A with Director Peter Byck.

For more information and to RSVP for this screening, please go to: <http://usd.eventbrite.com/>



Interested in reading more about the value of the English major? Check out this website: www.whystudyenglish.ac.uk/

Free refreshments

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Volunteer and Internship Opportunities

Greater San Diego Community Welcome!



Community



Center for Community Service-Learning (CSL)

Service learning reflects the mission of USD, which embraces the Catholic moral and social tradition by its commitment to serve with compassion, to foster peace and to work for justice, and prepare leaders dedicated to ethical conduct and compassionate service. Through service, the Center for Community Service-Learning engages USD students, faculty, staff, and alumni to learn in partnership with the community, and make life-long commitments to promote social change and justice. The Center's programs include course-based service-learning, student run co-curricular service, America Reads/Counts work-study tutoring, and a campus-wide Social Issues Committee which sponsors an annual conference as well as speakers and special events. All projects and programs depend on student leadership. Info: <http://www.sandiego.edu/csl/>

"Arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."

—E. B. White





Student News continued

continued from Page 2, Student News, Anna Halligan

See how the entertainment industry works. The internship I landed in the online newsroom at *Entertainment Tonight* opened my eyes to a world I knew nothing about, and, though it wasn't what I first fantasized about when researching internships last February, it was nothing if not educational. I guess what I am trying to say is, I'm starting to believe all those people who told me there will be twists in the road that I can't imagine or plan for, and I'm starting to think that's okay.

On my first day in the online newsroom, I was told that I would primarily be doing research for other writers, and that, in a week or so, I might have the opportunity to write my own stories for the website. This is not exactly what came to pass, as I wrote my first story for the website later that day. It was a piece on a topic I cared nothing about—as were many of the topics I would end up writing about—but



the process and the environment excited me, and I clicked into work mode that day. There were two other interns in the online department, and one never wrote a single article. The other came to work late and left early, complaining that there was never enough to do, that work was boring, and that she needed more assignments. But I learned to invent my own assignments. I would scour celebrity news until I had compiled a list of potential stories our readers would find interesting, funny, or controversial, and continuously pitched them to the producers until I had something to

write. I requested to join the crew on almost every field shoot, aware that I had to fight for the best opportunities. I learned that every day is what you make of it. Motivation and gumption are rewarded. You have to ask questions, but sound confident. And you have to be friendly and helpful to everyone. Make those Xerox copies with pride! And if you earn the trust and respect of your superiors, they may actually listen to you when you step over the line a little bit, suggesting questions to the interviewer, or correcting a producer's mistake.

Not all the lessons I learned over the course of the summer were quite so universally applicable or serious. For example, I learned that I would hate to be a celebrity. They earn large paychecks, attend glamorous events, and are sent free clothes. But they also seem to me to be used and abused by anyone that can make money off them. Paparazzi yell at them with barbaric brutality; even fans forget to acknowledge the humanity of their favorite actor or singer as they ravenously claw their way forward for a picture. ET, of course, is always kind to the celebrities who put money in their pocket. It's an exchange of favors, really—stars give us something to talk about, and we publicize their work. But as soon as the cameras are no longer rolling, and press and celebrity are left to mingle together over one Kraft Food Services table, no one is smiling and chatting anymore. It really is all business—show business.

But before I get too sidetracked about other lessons and tips I picked up, (headlines lie, twitter is dangerous, never trust US Weekly, ET anchors punch words at random) I would like to talk about where this internship has left me. On my last day of work, my bosses reaffirmed something they had been not so subtly hinting at: they are interested in hiring me as an online writer after graduation. This is thrilling news—affirmation that I did my job well, and indicative that I won't be living at home and working at Costco

after earning two degrees. I do not know if, ideally, this would be my dream job. It is certainly fun, especially when a piece allows for humor and subjectivity, but I would prefer to end up with a job that is more creative, social, and on-my-feet. Working on the team of writers for a half-hour show, like a comedy program or a sitcom, is one of the most difficult jobs to come by, but of course appeals to me more than writing story after story about "Bachelor" stars and bikini bodies. Furthermore, there are many different kinds of producers for many different types of television programming, and such professions, which incorporate both the administrative and the creative, intrigue me.

So what is the plan for now? Keep in contact with the helpful and encouraging team at ET, who I appreciate so much. Take more English courses, and continue to make school my top priority. Find another internship for next summer, hopefully somewhere in production, and prepare to fill dog bowls and run scripts around a set. (Will I ever be as fortunate as I was this summer?) Research various industry positions, make connections anywhere possible, consider graduate school, and keep every door open. Analyze every opportunity, and pursue every lead. I had no way of anticipating all the good that would come out of this summer. I cannot anticipate what will come next. I can, however, use the tools ET gave me and the lessons I learned to approach every opportunity with confidence, drive, and a Nancy O'Dell-worthy smile.

Anna Halligan, 24 August 2011, ET Internship in Review

"...I'm starting to believe all those people who told me there will be twists in the road that I can't imagine or plan for, and I'm starting to think that's okay."

—Anna Halligan

