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English Dept Newsletter



ANNOUNCEMENTS



On behalf of the English Department faculty and staff, I would like to welcome you to a fresh academic year. I hope the summer months offered opportunities, surely for rest, but also for adventures of all sorts, working, meeting and being challenged by others who were deeply interested in you and your growth as a human being. As we step into this new year,

there is, of course, a good measure of excitement for renewing friendships and embarking upon rigorous academic journeys called courses. The invitation, I think, is to enjoy your intellectual work and to avoid becoming so overscheduled that you cannot think. Second, try not to fear mistakes. Kathryn Schultz in her book, *Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error*, urges readers to appreciate how much learning takes place in exploring and reflecting upon the contours of our missteps—painful as this is. This endeavor is, of course, the heart of studying what we don't know and then writing and rewriting and rewriting those pesky essays. Finally, resist thinking of your classes as silos. Seek to connect the dots across classes so as to create a truly interdisciplinary and meaningful experience for yourself. Then, talk to each other and to faculty about what you are learning, for conversation is key to wisdom. May you have an exceptional year.

Sister Mary Hotz, Department of English Chair

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Sep 5: Classes Begin
- Sep 11: Alcalá Bazaar
- Sep 13: Mass of the Holy Spirit
- Sep 14: Last Day to Drop without a "W"
- Sep 19: Writing Center Opens
- Sep 20: Barrie Cropper Lecture
- Sep 21: Lindsay Cropper Writers Series Reading

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Announcements.....	1
Student News	2
Faculty News.....	5
Alumni News	5
Be Blue, Go Green	6
Did You Know?	6
Community.....	6

•The BARRIE CROPPER LECTURE ON CREATIVE WRITING: AMBER DERMONT

Thursday, September 20, 2012

12:30 p.m., free and open to the public

Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (KIPJ), Conference Room H/I (upstairs)

Featured Lecturer: AMBER DERMONT



•The Lindsay J. Cropper Memorial Writers Series: AMBER DERMONT & ADAM O. DAVIS

Friday, September 21, 2012

7:00 pm., free and open to the public

Mother Rosalie Hill Hall (MRH), Warren Auditorium (SOLES)

Dessert reception and book signing to follow.

Readings by: AMBER DERMONT, FICTION WRITER, and ADAM O. DAVIS, POET



For more information please contact Halina Duraj at hduraj@sandiego.edu or 619-260-7429, or go to: <http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/cropper/>



We're now on **Facebook!** Find the English Department at: <http://www.facebook.com/USDEnglish>

Please "Like" us! ...and thank you for your support.





STUDENT NEWS

Southeast San Diego Tutoring Program: register for USD Internship. Tutor local kids, gain valuable experience, earn academic credit at USD, and obtain real life intern experience to further your career. Tutors earn 1, 2, or 3 academic credits per semester for 3, 6, or 9 hours of tutoring per week, respectively, for ten weeks during the semester. For more info, visit program's website: www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/affiliations/sesd.php or email Dr. Tim Randell at trandell@sandiego.edu. Email soon to begin registering!

“The ocean of learning is endless.”

—(unknown)

English courses still open:

- CRN #1887 ENGL 300 British Lit— M. Giles-Watson
- CRN #3729 ENGL 300 British Lit— C. Caywood
- CRN #2242 ENGL 344 Victorian Studies—M. Hotz
- CRN #1908 ENGL 352.01 Lit of Civil War—D. Cantrell
- CRN #3090 ENGL 352.02 US Lit to 1900—D Clausen
- CRN #2456 ENGL 358.01 US Ethnic Lit—J Crum
- CRN #4429 ENGL 358.02 US Women of Color—G Perez
- CRN #4178 ENGL 360 Modern Poetry—T Randell
- CRN #3792 ENGL 366 Mod European Lit—I Williams
- CRN #4639 ENGL 372.02 Film Noir—F Robinson
- CRN #2207 ENGL 375.02 Intro to Creative Writing— D Perin
- CRN #1957 ENGL 494.03 Lit of 1960s—D Clausen
- CRN #4179 ENGL 494.04 English Words—J McGowan
- CRN #2684 ENGL 494.06 Lit of Crusades—S Vander Elst
- CRN #1959 ENGL 495 Senior Project—Atreyee Phukan

Space still available, enroll now!

ENGL 352-2

U.S. Literature to 1900



English 352 will focus on the authors and texts that created the foundation for American literature. Emerson, Twain, Hawthorne, Dickinson, Melville, and other nineteenth century American writers sent rays of light into the future that illuminated the way for writers of the next two centuries. They are as important to our national literature as Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton were to British literature.

Dr. Dennis Clausen - Mondays 6:00-8:50pm

For more information please email: dclausen@sandiego.edu



Space still available, enroll now!

ENGL 494-4 ENGLISH WORDS



The nature, origin, and development of the vocabulary of English.

Dr. Joseph McGowan
MWF 11:15a - 12:10p

Full course description at: www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/program/courses

For more information please email: mcgowan@sandiego.edu



The Writing Center
re-opens on
Wed, Sept 19th
619-260-4581
[http://
www.sandiego.edu/
cas/english/
writing_center/](http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/writing_center/)

ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT

FALL 2012 ENGLISH COURSE JUST ADDED!

ENGLISH 372, sec 2

FILM NOIR

"Dark" film, mostly from the '40s and '50s, that draw on crime and detective stories, professional cinematography and the changes in the U.S. brought by the experience of war, to create a world of dark, urban streets, dramatic black and white, high-contrast lighting, men and women with guns, and of them implicated in an almost phre of brutality and glamour

Professor Fred Robinson
WEDNESDAYS
6:00-8:50 p.m.



More information: tsd@sandiego.edu or (619) 260-2259





Images from Study Abroad London, England—June 2012:



Dr. David Hay and students in Aladdin Restaurant, Brick Lane, London.



*Traitor's Gate,
Tower of London.*



USD students at Radcliffe Camera, Oxford, England



*Trooping the Color, London: Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall;
Kate, Duchess of Cambridge; and Prince Harry.*



ENGLISH DEPT STUDY ABROAD 2013

Intersession 2013:

London & Oxford, England



ENGL 280/420 Intro to Shakespeare,
and Advanced Shakespeare: Abe Stoll
Jan 3-22, 2013

For more info contact: Dr. Abe Stoll astoll@sandiego.edu,
or go to: http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/program/courses/study_abroad.php



English major **Anna Halligan** spent her summer interning in the monologue department at CONAN (with Conan O'Brien, airing on TBS). She worked under the writers, researching current events and writing the premises for jokes. Here is her piece on her experience:

"I'm with Coco: Interning for Conan O'Brien",
by Anna Halligan

"Not to sound like a bitch, but 2,500 other people applied to be CONAN interns. Why should I choose YOU?"

I didn't feel like I'd passed my interview with flying colors, so I was caught off guard when, while I was sitting in class, an email popped up from the office coordinator at Conaco.

"OH MY GOD," I blurted upon seeing the job offer. I scuttled out of the shocked, silent, classroom and immediately called my mom. Four months later, ... *(continued on Page 7)*



Students: any other internships over the summer? We'd love to hear about it! Contact us at: English@sandiego.edu.



Career Services' Internship Fair will be on Thursday, September 20, 2012, 11:30am-1:30pm in the UC Forums. In preparation for the Internship Fair, attend the "Tips for Success at the Internship Fair" presentation, to be held on **Friday, September 14, 2012, 12:30-1:30pm**, Serra 215. For more information: http://www.sandiego.edu/careers/events/internship_fair/.

*"The soul should
always stand ajar,
ready to welcome
the ecstatic
experience."*

—Emily Dickinson



Announcing the 2012 Norton Anthology Student Recitation Contest! Between



September 15 and November 1, college and high school students worldwide are invited to submit an original video recitation of one of five 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 names included on the acknowledgments page of a Norton Anthology. For details: <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/aboutcontent.aspx?id=17824&mid=64>. †



"There is no one right way to read a poem. Good readers vary greatly, and even the same reader rarely reads a poem twice in exactly the same way." —M. H. Abrams, Founding General Editor of *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*.

Association of School Teachers (AST) is recruiting! Teaching English Program 2013-2014: the main goal of the teachers chosen for this program will be to assist and teach native Korean teachers and students (1st-12th grade) conversational English in South Korea. Contract period: 2/20/13-2/19/14. Qualifications: 1) Native speaker of English, 2) Bachelor's Degree from 4-year U.S. college/university. Preferred: degrees in **English**, Education, or Communication. Salary: \$1,600-2,300 USD per month, depending on education background & teaching experience. Benefits include: round-trip airfare, housing, compulsory medical insurance, & annual bonus (= one month's salary). Deadline to apply: Nov 30, 2012. Send resume to: hr.resume@astkorea.org. Toll-free 855-298-7733. Web site: <http://astkorea.org> or Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/astkorea>. †





FACULTY NEWS



"The Comma Sutra, Making Grammar Sexy Since 1875".

We have a limited number of T-shirts available! These are from **The Writing Center**; each Spring one of the student tutors designs a shirt! \$15.00 each. Contact: English@sandiego.edu or come by Founders 174



"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men."

—Herman Melville



The English Dept Welcomes New Adjunct Faculty Adam O. Davis. Adam joined the USD English Department in 2012. He earned his MFA in Poetry from Columbia University, where he was the recipient of the William Brock-Broido Fellowship, and his BA in Creative Writing from University of California--Riverside, where he served as poet laureate. His poetry has appeared in many journals, including *Boston Review*, *ZYZZYVA*, *CutBank*, *Raritan*, *The Laurel Review*, *POOL*, *The Southern Review*, *Western Humanities Review*, and *The Paris Review*.

The English Dept Welcomes New Adjunct Faculty Piotr Florczyk. Piotr is a poet and translator from his native Polish. He has taught poetry and literature undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of California-Riverside, University of Delaware, San Diego State University, and at Antioch University Los Angeles. He has a M.F.A. from San Diego State University, and a B.A. University of the Pacific. Piotr is editor and translator of *The Folding Star and Other Poems* by Jacek Gutorow (BOA Editions, 2012), *Building the Barricade and Other Poems of Anna Swir* (Calypso Editions, 2011), and *Been and Gone: Poems of Julian Kornhauser* (Marick Press, 2009). Additionally, he has published essays, reviews, and poems in numerous journals, including *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Salmagundi*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Boston Review*, *Slate*, *Pleiades*, *West Branch*, *Notre Dame Review*, *The Southern Review*, and *World Literature Today*. His teaching interests are Poetry, Translation, Criticism, and Personal Essay.

The English Dept Welcomes New Adjunct Faculty Michael Lundell. Michael teaches courses in introductory composition & literature. He is currently completing a PhD in English Literature at UC San Diego & also has an MFA in Creative Writing from San Diego State University & a BA in English Literature from UC Berkeley. His research interests include The 1001 Nights, 19th and early 20th century Arabic and English Literature, Film Studies & Orientalism.

Thur, Sep 6, 4:30-6:30p at Casa Guadalajara in Old Town: New & Junior Faculty Social. Located at 4105 Taylor St., Casa Guadalajara has reserved a space for USD new, adjunct and junior faculty to meet and mingle. Two drink tickets (good for wine, beer or a house margarita) and an appetizer buffet are located in a special patio area we've reserved. Contact: <http://www.sandiego.edu/cee/events/registration.php>.

Fri, Sep 7, 3:30-5:00p in Salomon Hall (Maher 240): CAS Welcome Back Party! The College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) invites all faculty & staff to the CAS Start of the Semester Reception. We will be welcoming our new faculty, staff and department chairs and congratulating our new associate and full professors. Appetizers, wine and beer will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thur, Sep 20, 4:00p in O'Tooles (UC): CAS 5x5 Live! Come join the College of Arts and Sciences for their 5X5: CASLive! featuring some of your favorite professors & USD professionals. They will be giving lively five-minute slide presentations. Doors open at 3:45p. 21 and up only. Receive a free drink ticket for attending.

Tuscany Prize for Catholic Fiction: Professors, we are looking for manuscripts. The Tuscany Prize for Catholic Fiction is a literary prize to promote writers and great undiscovered stories of Catholic fiction. What is Catholic fiction? Stories infused with the presence of God and faith — subtly, symbolically or deliberately. Do you have a manuscript? A story that will capture the imagination of the reader? Short Story -- Novella -- Novel. Would you like it published? Send us what you have? Submission Deadline: September 30, 2012. We invite you send in your manuscript. If you win, Tuscany Press will publish your work. We have nine prizes to be awarded in 2012. Visit our website: www.tuscanypress.com for more details.



ALUMNI NEWS

Recent Grad? What are you doing now? Let us know at: English@sandiego.edu. Share your news, photos— Jobs? Internships? Travels? We'd love to hear from you!



BE BLUE, GO GREEN

Alcala Bazaar: Tue, Sep 11, 11:30a-2:30p, Torero Way



This annual “street fair” event is University of San Diego’s favorite way of showcasing our organizations and departments and to encourage involvement on campus. Local businesses and vendors will also participate to help students purchase last-minute supplies, get set up with other services, and find out all San Diego has to offer. First-year students, ask your Preceptorial Assistant for more details. All are welcome. https://www.sandiego.edu/about/news_center/events/events_detail.php?focus=42338



DID YOU KNOW?



Did You Know? The English Department now has its own Facebook page. Find us at: <http://www.facebook.com/USDEnglish>.



COMMUNITY



September is **Hunger Action Month**. Hunger affects communities all across the country-- rural, urban, and suburban. Right here in San Diego, 1 in 4 children and 1 in 5 adults struggle with hunger. How can you help? It's easy. **Feeding America San Diego** (FASD) is asking you to simply Speak Out Against Hunger™ this September. Why speak out? Because the 430,000 children, families, and seniors they serve often do so in silence.

They live in your communities; they are your neighbors, your co-workers, and your friends, yet their struggles go unheard. Take part in Hunger Action Month and help FASD create a hunger-free and healthy San Diego.

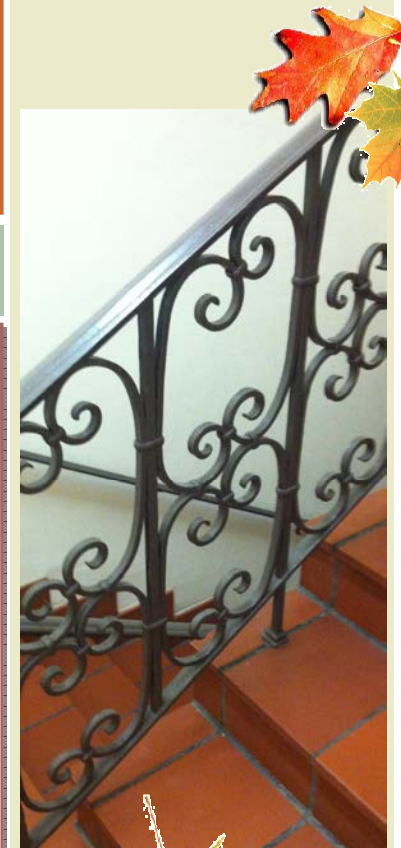
To learn more about Hunger Action Month and how you can help visit FASD's site: <http://feedingamericasd.org/>.[†]

[†] **DISCLAIMER:** Paid and unpaid internship opportunities, and other information are posted for informational purposes only. The postings do not constitute an endorsement by the University of the opinions or activities of the internship provider.



*“Tis the last rose of summer
Left blooming alone;
All her lovely companions
Are faded and gone.”*

—Thomas More





**“In dreams
begins
responsibility.”**

**—William
Butler Yeats**



Anna Halligan, CONAN (continued from Page 4):

Four months later, I was working on the Warner Brothers Lot in Studio 15.

There were approximately 35 CONAN interns, three of which, myself included, were in the monologue department. We had been chosen as monologue interns based on a quiz that tested our skill and speed when writing joke premises, which, over the summer, we did everyday. The workday started at 9AM, so we came in early to unload the dishwasher, stock the printers, and make coffee. Then, we began writing.

All of Conan’s monologue jokes follow a very specific format: a short premise, followed by a punch line. Premises are basically one-sentence summaries of news stories. We wrote at least 20 premises per day and sent them to the writers, who would then add punch lines and turn them into jokes. Here are a few examples of premises I wrote, and how they became monologue jokes:

Premise: “According to a professor at Stanford, playing video games and watching porn will lead to the demise of the male species.”

Punch Line: “Isn’t that amazing—I had no idea my mother was a professor at Stanford.”

Premise: “A group of Burger King employees have been fired for taking a photo of themselves with their feet in the restaurant’s lettuce.”

Punch Line: “A spokesman for Burger King said, “Great—There goes our secret recipe.”

We learned quickly which stories would make good premises and which would not. The writers love joking about Larry King’s age, Chris Christie’s weight, Mitt Romney’s wealth, and anything that has to do with sex.

But rehearsals were always my favorite time of day. Andy Richter would sit in his armchair, staring at his phone and nonchalantly dropping one-liners. Conan would lounge at his desk, playing the guitar and looking like a tortured, sullen teen. And everyday, somehow, in an atmosphere of lackadaisical self-loathing, a show would come together. I would watch a sketch during rehearsal, laugh appreciatively, listen as Conan discussed it with his head writer and executive producer, and then watch it a second time, altered and one million times better. Sometimes Conan tweaked lines here and there; other times they would discuss building humor through physical means. One time, they took a weak sketch about a man on a tight rope, added a guy in a bear costume, and instantly made the sketch amazing.

People keep asking me if it was “fun,” working at CONAN. “Fun” is an understatement, but honestly, it wasn’t just fun. It was also wildly stressful. There were times when Conan hated everything the interns

and writers had written, and we had to churn out premises until the second Conan walked on stage. There were times when I was given the day off, and then was asked to write premises from home. So while seeing celebrities and bands was fun, and meeting Conan was fun, and reading hundreds of jokes per day was fun, what may come as a surprise is that it did still feel like work. There was always the pressure to produce a 1-hour late night comedy program with original, funny, material.

Now, I wish I could tell you more of what I learned. But the best advice I can give anyone who wants to enter the entertainment industry is to get an internship yourself. You have to be in that environment to know whether or not you like it, and if you can survive and thrive. The CONAN offices are filled with smart, funny, creative people, who are constantly working on furthering their careers and bettering themselves. The Emmy Award-winning writers were frequently going on stand-up tours, and the guys in research were writing screenplays. One of my fellow monologue interns wrote the pilot for a sitcom, and the other started his own production company and wrote a play. Working in this environment, in which jokes are constantly flying and banter is the only common language, it’s impossible not to feel intellectually stimulated.

Former CONAN interns have gone on to do great things. Four CONAN interns currently star on “The Office.” We can’t all be such huge success stories, but I do think working at CONAN is hugely beneficial for people seeking careers in entertainment. First of all, interns become a part of the CONAN family. I got to work an award ceremony and the pilot of a new late night talk show, just because I’d met the right people. Second of all, CONAN interns have tough skins, and they know how to work. The writers all told me the same thing: If I want to be a writer, the most important thing to do is WRITE. I already write a comedy blog, annalcrackers.blogspot.com, but the next step for me is taking improv classes, learning about sketch comedy, and maybe even trying stand-up. When I finish school next year, I’ll move back to Los Angeles and attempt to find a job as a production or writer’s assistant. We’ll see what happens from there.

Entertainment is one of the most infamously tough industries to break into. The number of successful comedy writers, much less female comedy writers, is pitiful. A large part of me is convinced that I’ll someday work at Wal-Mart, hassling customers with gossip about Conan O’Bri-

en. It might happen. I don’t know. But what I do know is that I can work hard, apply myself, and, on a good day, I can make people laugh.

I’ve taken away so many lessons from my job this summer. One thing Conan personally told me was to not be “obsessive.” I think it’s a bit late for that—if Conan and I share one thing, it’s a tendency to be a little intense. But the Conan advice I choose to live by doesn’t come from any conversation we had; it comes from his final taping of “The Tonight Show” on NBC. He said, “If you work hard, and you’re kind, amazing things will happen.” This summer has been a testament to that, and I believe it with all my heart.

