

## TIDELINES



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

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Photo by Kathy Rugoff

## Birth of Truth: A preview to Ellerby memoir

by Emily Gould

"When she opened the door, we just stared at each other. It was like looking in a mirror," says Janet Ellerby, remembering the first time she saw her daughter, Merideth, since the day of her birth, March 20, 1965. Janet has a picture on a bookshelf in her UNCW office from that day, January 3, 2001. Despite their nearly 36-year separation, they even have the same straight, ash-blond, shoulder length hair. The events that led up to this meeting are the subject of Janet Ellerby's new memoir, *Following the Tambourine Man*.

Janet grew up in the early '60s among the manicured lawns and backyard swimming pools of San Marino,

California, a suburb of Los Angeles. As a teenager and the daughter of two professionals, she vacationed in Balboa, went to summer camp in the High Sierras and attended Nixon campaign events.

And then, at 16, she got pregnant.

Her parents sent her to live with her aunt, uncle and cousins in suburban Cleveland, Ohio. Janet told her friends from home that her parents had sent her away because she had fallen in with the wrong kind of girls and needed to pull up her grades away from the distractions of the beach. Janet attended public school in Ohio for a few months until the girdle her aunt had given her would no longer hide her pregnancy from her classmates

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## Ex-Dean Retires: 'I Was Blessed'

Just over a year after Jo Ann Seiple stepped down as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, she was not only listening to the wonderful, mournful notes of the bagpipes wafting across Scotland's Isle of Skye, she was, on this July in 2005, also entering the newest phase of her life: phased retirement.

Traveling was on the wish list of the former dean when, after almost 30 years at UNCW, she returned to teaching and, from there, to a reduced assignment that was the segue into full-blown retirement. At the end of the spring semester 2008, Seiple makes it official: She is retired.

"It's hard for me to realize that my work

at UNCW is really going to be done," she said. "I've had incredible opportunities to effect positive changes in the life of this university and in the lives of its students, faculty and staff, and I'm really going to miss my involvement — especially with my students in the classroom. At the same time, I must say that I'm looking forward to having more quality time with my husband, family and friends, as well as to pursue personal interests that have been on the back burner for years."

Seiple's career apex was when she was CAS dean, the largest academic component of the university. To put the responsibilities of the Dean of the College

*cont on page 8*



Photos by Kathy Rugoff

If freedom were a novel, imagination and literature would be the ink and paper. Without them, freedom would stand little chance resisting its own downfall, said Iranian author and lecturer Azar Nafisi in a speech Oct. 22 at UNCW. Nafisi, author of the bestselling book *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*, spoke to a nearly full house at the 1,016-seat Kenan Memorial Auditorium.

Azar Nafisi's appearance is sponsored by the Buckner Lecture Series, established by Charles F. Green III to provide funding to bring distinguished speakers to UNCW. The series is named in honor of his friend, Katherine K. Buckner. Green's generosity has made it possible for both the UNCW English and Creative Writing departments to invite prominent guest lecturers and writers to UNCW.

"We live at a time where everything is so polarized," said Nafisi in her speech entitled "The Republic of the Imagination." But the interior life is where true revolution begins. "Curiosity is insubordination in its purest form," she said, quoting Vladimir Nabokov (*Lolita*).

She urged the audience to use literature as a way to look at situations from the point of view of others.

"Books are like hothouse flowers," said Nafisi. "They will die if we do not reinterpret them." Interpreting literature, like democracy, is the free exchange of ideas with people who are not like you, she said. A government tries to take away individuality to control

the masses, said Nafisi, but literature does the opposite. Imagination is a way to change the world and -- alluding to Leo Tolstoy -- clear the dust of everyday life, said Nafisi.

All the noise and static of life tends to make everything seem as though it has a covering of dust on it. But great music, art and literature clears away the dust.

"It makes the world clear-washed," she said, again bowing to the Russian author's worldview.

## Iranian Author Azar Nafisi Stresses Link between Freedom and Literature

by Matthew Jancer

Reading great fiction and great poetry is a way of walking around in someone else's shoes, said Nafisi. And doing so means we discover how alike we all are and a common humanity unites us. That space where all human beings meet is the territory she calls the Republic of the Imagination.

"Imagination is about power," she said. "It is about an alternative way of looking at the world and at ourselves."

Nafisi, born in Iran, was sent abroad for schooling in the United States and stayed 17 years. When she returned to Iran in 1979, she accepted a job as a professor at the University of Tehran.

In that same year, the political turmoil took another turn, and the Ayatollah Khomeini came to power.

She compared her experiences as a woman living in Iran to that of being a woman in the United States and talked about the freedoms she had in the United States and in Iran before the revolution. Among the freedoms taken away in Iran was being allowed to read and teach certain books such as Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Henry James' *Washington Square* and, of course, Nabokov's *Lolita*.

By being denied the freedom of choice to read, said Nafisi, the government was taking away freedom itself.

She was expelled from teaching at the University of Tehran in 1981, because she refused to wear the mandatory veil. Later, she invited seven of her former students -- all female -- to her house to read and discuss the literature that she was unable to teach at the university. Like the main character in Nabokov's "Lolita," she said, the government tries to impose its image onto its citizens. However, Nafisi remains convinced that literature is about making up one's own mind. "Fiction does not make you smart," she said. "It makes you question yourself."

"*Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*" was published in 2003 and spent more than two years on The New York Times bestseller list. It has been translated into more than 30 languages.

She is a Visiting Professor and the director of the Dialogue Project at the Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.

For more information, visit Nafisi's Web site at <http://www.azarnafisi.com/>.

# John Updike: Writing the 'Packed Line'

by Benjamin Inch

The literary world should be cautious not to let the classics fall into obscurity, said two-time Pulitzer Prize winner John Updike in a talk he gave Oct. 23 at UNCW. The sold-out audience at the Kenan Memorial Auditorium alternately applauded, laughed and nodded in recognition as he read some of his works, shared his views on writing and literature and related personal experiences. After the nearly one-hour talk, he answered a handful of prepared questions both from a moderator and the



John Updike, left, with Charles F. Green III  
Photos by Kathy Rugoff

audience.

While Updike, 75, expressed concern for the state of literature, he said it didn't behoove him to "bemoan current literary trends" when the profession had been so good to him for so many years.

This event was made possible by the generosity of Charles F. Green III and is part of UNCW's Buckner Lecture series. Katherine Buckner, for whom the series is named, was a long-time friend of Mr. Green's.

Updike is considered one of the most important, influential and prolific American authors of the last 50 years. He has published 22 novels, seven volumes of poetry, six children's books and a dozen volumes of poetry. Erin Bond, a creative writing instructor at UNCW, praised Updike, saying, "His prose is so deceptively simple, it shows us that a good story doesn't need frills to be powerful."

*Updike is considered one of the most important, influential and prolific American authors of the last 50 years.*

Updike's first reading was a short story titled "Friends from Philadelphia," which was his first published piece of literature, originally printed in *The New Yorker* in 1957. "It's fragile," he said. "I've rarely read it in public." His smooth velvety baritone began this story, like so many stories of his over the decades, in the suburbs. A boy going for a ride to the liquor store in a huge old Buick ("A motor so quiet, like a sleeping cat.") with the girl of his yearning dreams ("I could bite her lip until it bleeds.") and her father. He is poor; he has only a tiny bit of money to buy a bottle of wine. They stop; the father takes the boy's money, goes into the store, and comes out with the package and a few cents change. He worries the wine is so cheap his mother will not like it. He looks in the bag and reads the label: Chateau Mouton Rothschild 1937.

Updike looks up, this tale of generosity and surprise finding its mark.

The editors liked this story, he said, because of "the way you make the reader feel that boy's poverty."

Updike followed this reading with four more recent poems which had been previously printed in magazines, topics ranging from a trip with his wife to India to popular singer Frankie Laine, who has had hit songs for six decades, including the theme song to Clint Eastwood's old Western, "Rawhide."

Toward the end of the reading, the crowd got another surprise -- a woman from the audience trotted up to the stage, book in hand, and requested that Updike read her favorite poem.

He looked at the suggestion, bushy white eyebrows bunching and expressed reluctance. The woman egged him on, and he started reading a rather saucy piece with a bitter undertone titled "No More Access to Her Underpants." It detailed a woman who had been lost to him, and his erotic lines called forth both her beauty and her sexuality, and then sealed her fate with a line about "arctic ice" and an epithet.

During the following question-and-answer session, Updike advised young writers to be cautious, because the work of a writer often doesn't pay well enough to be a full-time living. He said those who wish to be writers should absorb as much literature as possible and endeavor to write "packed lines," those which are full of detail while being spare in length.

An on-stage reception and book signing followed the talk.





# The Mexican Metamorphosis of a 'Beat'

by Robert Cox

Morphine addict. Gay. Episodic drunk. Wife killer. Life in the 1950s wasn't an ivy-covered cottage for author William S. Burroughs, one of the original "beat" generation writers who scandalized the staid literary scene with his novels that dived into both the underworld drug scene and homoeroticism.

But it was his travel to Mexico City around 1950 that captured the attention of Robert Cox, and it was this English major's persuasive argument that this city of intense color, piquant food and moral flexibility reinvigorated the author's talent.

*"It was Mexico that offered Burroughs his creative freedom."*

— Robert Cox

"It was Mexico that offered Burroughs his creative freedom," said Cox in a presentation in September that capped the end of his Wentworth Student Travel Fellowship. A senior, he was one of 11 English majors who competed for and won an opportunity to explore the territory of a favorite writer.

The Wentworths are funded by Mr. Charles F. Green III, who provides \$18,000 annually, so that students can travel anywhere in the world in order to study the literary works and writers they admire.

Cox found parallels in the strictured world that Burroughs wanted to escape from and the world today that condemns gay people to a life outside marrying-churchgoing-socially accepted norms.

"Life was starting to become a tragedy for him in America," said Cox as he explained via a sumptuous slide show how the author of the drug-fueled cult classic *Naked Lunch* and *Queer* -- the exploration of his own homosexuality -- ran from New Orleans to Mexico just ahead of the police, escaping a drug charge and fleeing trial.

Cox drew a gritty picture of Burroughs' and his wife, Joan's, stay in Mexico City.

One of Burroughs' watering holes was La Opera Bar, said Cox, which hasn't changed much since the days when the author passed by the worn brass plaque

that marked the entrance to the cool dim interior.

It was near here in 1951 that Burroughs and his wife spent a drunken evening that ended when they played a game of shoot-the-shot-glass-off-the-head. Burroughs had a gun, and Joan wound up with a .32-caliber slug in her head. The Mexican authorities ruled it an accident.

Much of Burroughs' time was spent organizing trips to find drugs, said Cox. And one of his primary hunting grounds was La Merced, now a huge marketplace near the city's center but still consisting of a park that is even these days a haunt for those whose tastes dwell in the demimonde.

The atmosphere of the park was "quite liberating," said Cox. Even today, as Cox walked through, he saw homosexual couples in various stages of embrace. Burroughs used to pick up prostitutes here, said Cox.

And this freedom to pursue who he was -- a gay man and a drug user -- is what Cox argues gave impetus to the author's creative urge.

"He was looking for spiritual adventure," said Cox and showed slides of the arching panorama of the stepped pyramids at Teotihuacán. Burroughs pursued this interior adventure along with his interest in anthropology by going to this ancient city whose name means "place where gods are born." He and his friend, poet Allen Ginsberg ("Howl"), traveled to these pre-Columbian ruins about 25 miles outside of Mexico City in order to find a common vibration between this ancient site and themselves. And, of course, to try drugs while they were doing it.

By going to Mexico, Burroughs was able to become more of a spectator to his own tragedy and reap the cathartic effect, said Cox. This effect was carried over to Burroughs' future when he moved to Tangiers in 1954 and, out of his deepening addictions and friendships with Jack Kerouac (*On the Road*) and Ginsberg, he creates the core that will become *Naked Lunch*.

Through his experiences in Mexico, Cox feels, the author was invigorated.

"It is truly possible to break free of societal norms," said Cox.



Seven Gables,  
famous by  
Hawthorne's novel  
with same title.

### Others who were able to travel, courtesy of Mr. Green's generosity:

- Shawna Blas** — Scottish Highlands
- Shawna Blas** — Shakespeare's England
- Amanda Cosgrove** — Scottish Highlands
- Nicholas Damore** — Scottish Highlands
- Kyra Ferruccio** — Nathaniel Hawthorne's Salem
- Sarah McKone** — Jonathan Swift's Dublin
- Samuel Peterson** — Scottish Highlands
- Geovani Ramirez** — James Fenimore Cooper's Upstate New York
- Rebecca Rowell** — Flanders, Belgium's Western Front
- Lauren Scarpa** — Flannery O'Connor's Georgia
- Lindsey Shuford** — Scottish Highlands

Chairman Christopher Gould's English 495 senior seminar class on Poe, Hawthorne and Melville was able to travel to Concord, Salem and Pittsfield, Mass.



# Theatre Legend Takes Class Behind Scenes

## Award-winning film star talks drama.

In an acting career that has spanned five decades, Pat Hingle has served drinks to Marlon Brando, yelled at Michael Keaton, swapped one-liners with Will Farrell, coached basketball and wooed the fragile heroine in “The Glass Menagerie.”

But when this Wilmington resident came to visit Kathleen Gould’s students in her Pulitzer Prize Drama course in September, he gave them a behind-the-scenes look at the people who brought these award-winning plays to the American people. When singer Burl Ives played his first big role in the stage production of “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,” he had a hard time connecting with the audience, said Hingle. Director Elia Kazan (“On the Waterfront”) noticed the singer of such hits as “Little Bitty Tear” and “Down in the Valley,” transformed when he picked up his banjo and started playing. To focus that same energy, Kazan suggested Ives just focus on the audience while playing the role instead of playing to the other actors.

To accommodate this veering from an actor’s training, Kazan had the other players on stage move and position themselves to disguise the fact that Ives wasn’t interacting with them, said Hingle.

Then there was one of Hingle’s most famous stage roles: the coach in Jason Miller’s “That Championship Season.”

This story is of four men who meet at the home of their old coach and relive the glory days of their winning high school basketball team.

The role of the coach, Hingle was told at the time, was written with him in mind. The play would go on in 1972 to win the New York Drama Critics Award for Best Play, Drama Desk Award for Most Promising Playwright, and Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Playwriting

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*“Hingle has a way of  
‘selling’ a character.”*

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— Rosemary DePaolo, Chancellor

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Award. The playwright also won the Antoinette Perry Award (the Tony) for best play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1973.

Hingle’s problem: He was offered the role, but couldn’t take it. The play was off-Broadway, and, with one daughter in college, it didn’t pay enough.

Call him when it goes uptown, Hingle recalled telling the producers.

And it did. Hingle took the role of coach when it moved to the Booth Theatre, where it played for 700 performances, according to Playbill.

Not every role he took was a central

one. He played a bartender in Kazan’s movie “On the Waterfront.”

Hingle has a way of “selling” a character to an audience. Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo confided later in a colleague that she would never go to see “The Grifters” (1990), because Hingle played such a heartless mob boss who was out to teach Angelica Huston’s scam artist character a lesson.

Most students who know him primarily as Commissioner Gordon in the “Batman” movies had a new appreciation after Gould’s class for the range of his talent. And sharing his experiences with the class is only part of how he contributes to the arts community in Wilmington. Recently a scholarship was created in his name, and The Thalian Association will be in charge of awarding The Pat Hingle Scholarship in theater arts to a high school senior who has shown a serious and continuing interest in the theater.

Hingle left Gould’s students with this thought:

He started out at the University of Texas at Austin on a tuba scholarship (graduating in 1949), but he said his social life was a bit lacking.

If you want to meet pretty girls, try the theater department, said Hingle with a twinkle in his eye. ... because that’s what he did.



For students wanting to intern and study in the nation's capital, the UNC Semester in Washington Program provides the ideal opportunity.

As many as 42 students from the UNC system take advantage of the program each semester; they live, intern, and study in Washington, D.C., and receive a full semester's credit from their home institutions. Through the program, students from 14 of the UNC system's universities (including UNCW) continue their academic career in Washington, D.C., for the semester.

Dr. Lee Schweninger returned from serving as resident director for the UNCW Study Abroad Program in Swansea, Wales (spring 2007), to take up his current position as faculty-in-

the federal government, of course, but it also has a number of world-class museums and performing arts venues, and it has some of the most notable historical monuments in the country.

"The city's cultural riches are inexhaustible," Schweninger says.

Everyone in the class sits at a big table, discussing the readings and sharing ideas about the authors' arguments, says Kaitlin Helms, a junior at UNCW and fall 2007 participant in the program.

And with the talk comes action. In addition to reading and discussing, the students take field trips to the sites linked to the readings to better understand the authors' works. For example, students read and discuss the Declaration of Independence and then visit the

Democrat. Other students have interned in the offices of senators Dole and Richard Burr (R-N.C.), in the Supreme Court and at the Pentagon. Others have chosen non-governmental internships with places such as the Smithsonian Institution, the Kennedy Center, Voice of America and the National Coalition of the Homeless, to name a few. Several students from prior semesters have returned to D.C. to work full time for people they interned with during the program. One former intern is at the Washington Post, another at the National Men's Health Network and still another in the White House.

"D.C. offers unparalleled opportunities both within and outside governmental offices and agencies that are simply not available in North Carolina," says Schweninger.

The UNC Semester in Washington program is tailored for a cross-section of learning, Schweninger says. He has been invited to stay on for another academic year (2008-2009) as faculty-in-residence.

Helms, a political science major, may have summed up the learning experience best: "[It's] the coolest thing."

## A Capital Internship

residence for the UNC Semester in Washington Program, where his duties include teaching an experiential learning course.

One component of the program is a Washington Experience seminar, and Dr. Schweninger has devoted his "Narratives of Democracy" course to an investigation of the many different ways American democracy has been represented (and misrepresented) over the past 220 years. Students consider writings about democracy from an array of genres: novels, historical documents, essays, short stories, poems and even songs, and they "hear" many different voices throughout the semester. The seminar provides students with the opportunity to become familiar with how the stories of democracy have developed and been perpetuated in the United States. Students also consider how those narratives have been carried over into national monuments, museums and other historic sites.

Washington, D.C., is the center of

National Archives to see the original document. Students read about and discuss the women's suffrage movement and visit the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, home and headquarters of women's rights activist Alice Paul. Students also visit the Frederick Douglass House, the American Art Museum and the National Museum of the American Indian. They tour the U.S. Capitol building, see the Senate in action and meet in the office of North Carolina Sen. Elizabeth Dole.

And these are only a few of the many experiences in store for students in the UNC program that is open to qualified undergraduates regardless of major.

For students looking for a challenging and rewarding internship, this is the perfect program. The six-credit hour internship is like a full-time job, but is also an unbelievably rewarding experience. During the fall semester, Helms interned 32 hours a week for Washington State Senator Patty Murray, a



## Honors and Awards

Robert Warwick Distinguished Service Award given by the Cameron School of Business upon leaving the dean's office

College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Service Award presented at the CAS Convocation the next year  
Commendation for Service as Dean, UNC Wilmington Board of Trustees, April 2004

YWCA Women of Achievement Award: Education, May 2004

Invited faculty member, Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Society), March 2004

Member, The Order of Isaac Bear, 2005-present

Commencement speaker, The Graduate School, Texas A&M University at Commerce, December 2000; The School of Education, Texas A&M University at Commerce, December 2000

Invited Participant, ACE National Forum for Women Leaders, Office of Women in Higher Education, Washington, DC, November 1998

MLE Fellow, "Leading Transformation and Change," (a three-week summer leadership seminar), Harvard University, June 1998

Pi Kappa Phi, UNC Wilmington, 1996-present

1990 Executive of the Year Award, from Cape Fear Chapter of Professional Secretaries International.

Distinguished English Alumnus. East Texas State University, Commerce, April 1989

## Professional Service

Executive Board, Women Administrators in North Carolina Higher Education (WANCHE), 1997-2000

Editor, Connections, newsletter of WANCHE, 1997-2000

Advisory board, Cape Fear Writing Project for Southeastern North Carolina, 1983-88

Planning Committee, North Carolina Writing Project, 1980-83

# Jo Ann Seiple Retires con't...



of Arts and Sciences in perspective: More than three-quarters of the credit hours earned at UNCW come from the College of Arts and Sciences, it has about 600 employees and, according to 2007 figures, it oversees a budget of approximately \$50 million. She led during a time of explosive expansion and the university's building of a nationwide reputation that has led to UNCW being named one of the top 10 master's universities in the South – for 10 years in a row.

During her eight-year tenure as dean, she helped to establish five new academic departments and reorganized her own office, leading to an upgraded and more effective staff across all departments.

She also supported the establishment of numerous undergraduate and graduate programs that bolstered the technological and global aims of a UNCW education. The degree programs that began and flourished under her aegis include bachelor's in film studies, creative writing, environmental sciences, art history, athletic training, statistics, and therapeutic recreation, along with master's programs in public administration, liberal studies, marine science, and the joint CAS and CSB graduate program in computer science and information systems. Through these programs and multiple new undergraduate degree concentrations, minors, certificate programs and online courses implemented during her tenure, her influence is felt throughout the curriculum and is one of the main reasons students can pursue studies that range from athletic training and biochemistry to jazz studies and Middle East studies.

"There is a lot to be proud of," she says. "I was blessed to work with some great department chairs and program directors who shared my vision for the College of Arts and Sciences and who worked hard with me and with each other and with their faculty to establish a level of excellence unrealized before. Together we designed new, much-needed classroom buildings and planned needed renovations of others; we strengthened our basic studies courses through learning communities and new service learning components; we established a highly successful annual College Day, which gives hundreds of area residents the opportunity to learn from our best teachers; and we widened our students' horizons by opening new fields of study and more opportunities for study abroad. We always had a lot on our plates, but we rarely left any scraps behind."

These days, Seiple's agenda is often a menu. She's a great cook and loves to entertain.

"She does a lot of fiery dishes," says Ele Byington, a member of the English Department who has known Seiple for 17 years. Her polenta-based casserole is incredible, but can leave one "a little gasping," adds Byington.

The human touch never failed Seiple. Her students praise her, and her friends are downright amazed at how, even with the kind of heavy responsibilities she had, she always made time to tend relationships.

"She always gives her friends Christmas cookies," says Byington, baking them all herself. "And delivers them to each one of her friends."

"I'm blessed to have a number of really good friends, and I'm looking forward to being able to do more things with them," Seiple says. "Many of them share my love of travel, and I can see my husband and me exploring many new places with them. In fact, we already have a trip lined up for next fall!"



# Ellerby memoir con't...

and teachers. Her aunt then sent her to a "Home for Unwed Mothers" to wait out the last few months of her pregnancy. While her girlfriends in high school were still shoplifting vodka, getting drunk and sneaking out to dances, she was among 30 other girls who, without relatives or friends standing by, would give birth to babies they were never supposed to see or name.

Both her mother and aunt advised her to save her "reputation" by not telling anyone, but a few years later, Janet told her first husband. "He responded by saying 'How could you?' which is exactly what I expected anyone to say. That contributed for a long time to my silence about it," she said.

Then in 1999, she began writing *Intimate Reading*, an academic study of contemporary women's memoirs. She noticed that the women she studied used writing to "tell their secrets," so Janet decided to introduce her book with her own 30-page memoir, telling the story of her pregnancy and of her daughter's secret adoption.

Shortly after she finished writing in November of 2000, her daughters, Helen and Kezia, told her that they had found

the name of her adopted daughter. By December, Janet had found her daughter's full married name, Merideth Fiorucci, and found an address for her. Janet decided to write her a letter to introduce herself and give Merideth the option of not responding if she did not want to meet. However, on December 19, Merideth called. "I would have driven up to see her that night if she wanted me to," Janet said, but they settled on January 3 when Janet and her husband, John, would be visiting family in New York, near Merideth's New Jersey home.

"If I read it in a novel, I wouldn't have believed it. It was just too pat," she said of their first meeting. "When we pulled up in front of the house, I was too scared to get out of the car." Then she saw, on the front door, a poster-sized child's drawing of Janet and John arriving at the house and meeting the family of five. Beside it were the words "Welcome Janet and John." "When I saw it, I started running up to the front door," she remembers. Although the first meeting was only a few hours, they have since had longer family gatherings, where the three children Janet raised also met Merideth.

Janet met Merideth a few months after writing her memoir for *Intimate Reading*. After its publication, Janet remembers

that, at readings, people mostly asked her about her own memoir. So she decided to write a 280-page follow-up, which includes the story of how she and Merideth were reunited.

Even though she has developed a closer relationship with her daughter than she ever expected, Janet admits this cannot replace her 36-year loss. "It will never be a typical mother-and-daughter relationship," she said. "Although I have been blessed with a reunion I never thought possible, a lost child is forever a lost child."

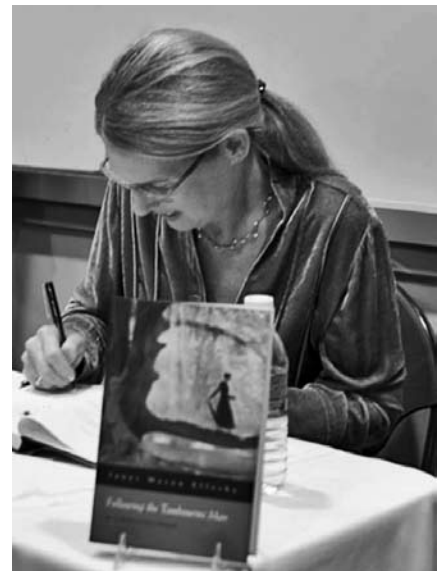


Photo by Kathy Rugoff

## Faculty Notes:

**Anthony Atkins** was awarded the 2007 Department of English

Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is given annually to the teacher who has significantly contributed to student learning and whose peers have endorsed his excellence. Atkins' name will be added to the plaque displayed outside the department's main office.

**Lu Ellen Huntley** was invited to be a guest speaker at the Newport, Oregon Library during its Literary Flicks Program in September 2007. The title of her presentation was "Transformation Revealed: *The Color Purple* as Novel, Film, and Hallowed Ground." The presentation was at the Newport Library on Sept. 11.

**John Clifford** has published a review-essay,

"Rhetorical Ideals and Disciplinary Realities," in the January 2008 issue of *College English*. This is his third appearance in the journal.

**Lee Schweninger's** book, *Listening to the Land: Native American Literary Responses to the Landscape* (University of Georgia Press, 2008) is scheduled to come out in April.

**Shirley Mathews'** manuscript for her detective novel beat 900 other submissions and became one of the five finalists in Court TV's Search for the Next Great Crime Writer contest in 2007. She is now a full-time lecturer.

**Barbara Frey Waxman** has two publications coming out. "Eva Hoffman's Transition from Eurocentric Vision and Polish to New World Outlook and English, from Polish Girl to American Woman." a/b: Auto/Biography Studies. In press (scheduled for spring, 2008) and "Food

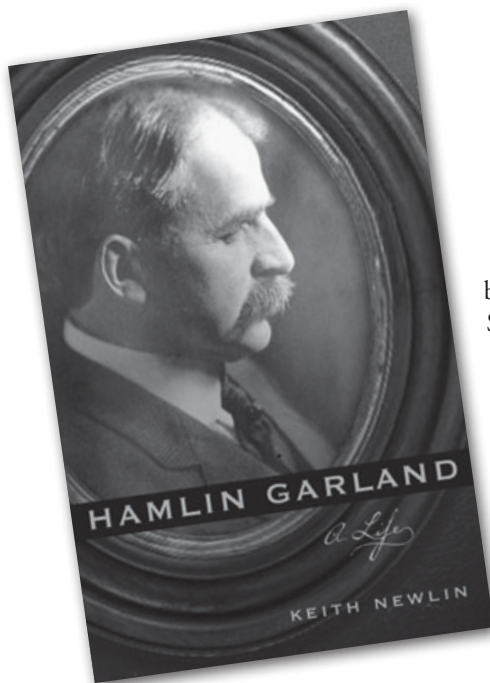
Memoirs: What They Are, Why They Are Popular, and Why They Belong in the Literature Classroom." *College English* [70, 4, March 2008].

**Tiffany Gilbert** been invited to give the graduation address for the SWAG (Studies in Women and Gender) ceremony at the University of Virginia on May 18, 2008.

**Nick Laudadio's** article "What Dreams Sound Like: *Forbidden Planet* and the Electronic Musical Instrument," appears in *Journal of Fantastic in the Arts* (17:4).

A chapter from **Jesse Waters'** memoir *Call Me Kike: A Memoir-ish* appears in the January 2008 issue of *Southeast Review*.

The UNCW Board of Trustees has approved **Betsy Ervin's** appointment as associate professor emerita.



# Professor Wraps Garland Bio

Pulitzer Prize winner, biographer of Ulysses S. Grant, Klondike Gold Rush adventurer, novelist of the Old West, short story writer and lecturer ... no, not Mark Twain, not Zane Grey ...

"Hamlin who?" says author and professor Keith Newlin, joking as he explains his passion

for Hamlin Garland, in his time a prolific bestselling novelist and international literary star, but now little known.

"Garland's life is a story of ironic contradictions: the radical whose early achievement thrust him to the forefront of literary innovation, but whose evolutionary aesthetic principles could not themselves adapt to changing conditions, and he, therefore, missed the significance of modernism, the century's most noteworthy literary achievement; the self-styled 'veritist' whose credo demanded that he verify every fact, but whose credulity led him to spend a lifetime seeking to verify the existence of spirits," wrote Newlin in an article for the West Salem Historical Society. Newlin's latest book, *Hamlin Garland, A Life* is due in bookstores this spring.

Since 1998, Newlin has edited and introduced many of Garland's works, publishing in that year *Selected Letters of Hamlin Garland*, co-edited with Joseph B. McCullough, and *Hamlin Garland: A Bibliography, with a Checklist of Unpublished Letters*.

Jerome Loving, author of *The Last Titan: A Life of Theodore Dreiser*, calls Newlin's biography "a brilliant reconstruction of the life and times of America's great prairie realist" and praises Newlin's work, saying "he has masterfully narrated the rest of this fully engaged literary life with insight, wit, and deep perception."

Donald Pizer, the preeminent scholar of American literary realism and naturalism and author of *Hamlin Garland's Early Work and Career*, goes even further, saying Newlin's book "is a major achievement."

Also due in the spring is *A Summer to Be: A Memoir by the Daughter of Hamlin Garland*, by Isabel Garland Lord and edited and introduced by Newlin.

"The memoir is very revealing in a number of ways," Newlin explains. "First, we learn what it's like to grow up as the pampered and spoiled daughter of a famous writer whose early life intersected with George Bernard Shaw, Arthur Conan Doyle, James M. Barrie and other British and American writers. When Isabel grew up, she formed many friendships with the old Hollywood movie crowd, including John Barrymore, Walter Pidgeon, and the daughter of D. W. Griffith. But it's also quite revealing about Hamlin Garland, for Isabel had a bit of a daddy problem, and much of the conflict of the narrative is her struggle to achieve independence from an overprotective and controlling father."

When asked what sort of life emerges in the biography, Newlin explains, "The life I have tried to sketch is of an extraordinarily ambitious and energetic man with a modest talent who, through sheer determination and strength of will, skyrocketed into international fame before he was 40. Garland's

*A brilliant reconstruction of ...  
America's great prairie realist.'*

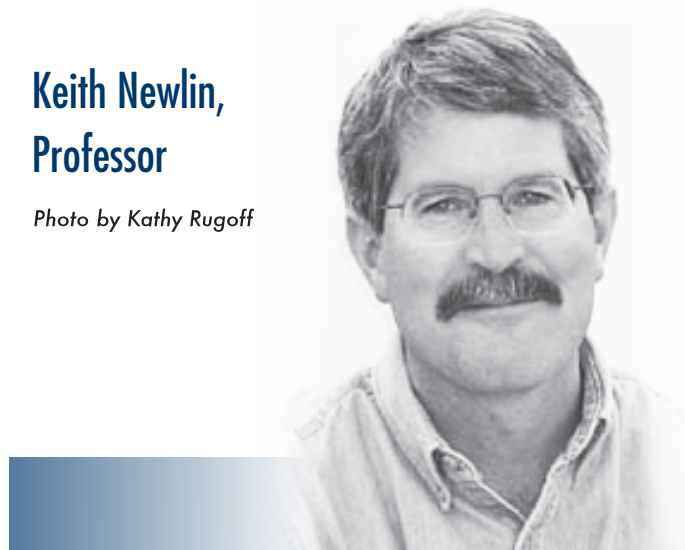
— author Jerome Loving on Newlin's *Hamlin Garland, A Life*

need for recognition caused him to cultivate rewarding friendships with the leaders of literary culture, yet even when he attained considerable fame, the recognition was never enough, and his self-doubt subjected him to fits of black despair."

If you'd like to know more about Garland, take a look at this extensive site (<http://people.uncw.edu/newlink/garland/>), where you can see a film of the writer in action, hear musical adaptations of his work, look over an extensive illustrated bibliography of his books, and even read the entire text of one of his most famous works, *Main-Travelled Roads* - (<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/2809>).

**Keith Newlin,  
Professor**

Photo by Kathy Rugoff



# Grad Notes:

**Breann Aswell** (Dec. 2006) is a Training Coordinator for Castle Branch Inc., which is the 15th largest employment screening company in the country. She trains new hires, does their orientation sessions into the operations department and conducts quality control on their research and other areas until they are officially moved to the floor. She also creates training documents and is in charge of documenting all operational processes.

**Ceri-Louise Mobley** (née Frid) graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2005 with a double major in English (professional writing option) and political science. She married and moved to Florida for the happiest of reasons: She got a job working for the PGA TOUR. Ceri is a site producer on the Web site <http://pgatour.com>, and she also writes for and manages the travel section <http://pgatour.com/tourlife/travel>, writing most of the stories herself. Ceri-Louise is also responsible for doing a weekly world roundup of all the other golf tours. While studying at UNCW, she earned one of the Wentworth Fellowships in 2005 and got to experience James Joyce's Dublin.

**Chase Clark** (May 2005) is working as the Internet Director for WWAY NewsChannel 3 in Wilmington. He writes, "I'm putting my knowledge of AP Style to good use and browbeating the new reporters into style-submission." Because he is not a big fan of sleeping, he has co-founded a small web design company, as well: Batabix Design. They have developed web sites for several companies in Wilmington and even some school-related sites (UNCW's *Ecotone*, UNCW's Film department, and the behemoth we're currently working on -- Brunswick County Schools). Chase is currently eyeing jobs in the Triangle and Boston ("whichever will take me first").

**Courtney Flaherty** is working at Raleigh-based Kate Foster Productions as an assistant wedding coordinator. The company specializes in event planning, including weddings, corporate events, theme parties and more.

**Anna Marie Cancelli** (May 2003, MA English). While in grad school, she worked as a film industry make-up artist. Some of her films included *The Patriot*, *Divine Secrets*

*of the Ya Ya Sisterhood*, *Black Knight*, *The Gift* and *Cabin Fever*. After grad school, she continued to work as a film/television make-up artist, working on such projects as: *Dawson's Creek*, *Radio*, *The Notebook* and The History Channel's *Days that Shook the World* series. In the summer of 2004, she left the film industry to teach full time at Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville where she teaches such courses as Literature Based Research, Professional Writing and Research, American Literature, and World Literature. She writes, "And for fun, I bellydance and go to my boyfriend's shows - he's in a Wilmington band called Hellbroth."

**Ladd Gasparovic** (1998) has a law practice based in Hampstead. He specializes in real estate, business law, estate planning and civil litigation.

**Amanda Burcham** (2007) is in New Hampshire working part-time as an environmental instructor and part-time at an elementary school as a one-on-one tutor for a child with autism.



**Thomas (Trey) Kilpatrick** (Dec. 2004) is applying his writing skills in a collection of travel and non-fiction writing, due for submission in late 2008. He is currently working as a boat captain in Alaska, contracted by NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) and the NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) to motor biologists into position so they may observe marine mammal interaction with current salmon fishing gear and efforts in fishing areas near a small village called Yakutat.

**Kelly Edge** is in Boone at Appalachian State University and is taking part in the TA exchange program with the University of Angers in France. She will be teaching an English class in France for at least nine months.

**Amanda Hutcheson** is a writer and editor for the Topsail Voice, a newspaper in Hampstead.

**Chase T. Brockstedt** joined the law firm of Bifferato Gentilotti, LLC, in September, 2007 and will be dividing his time between the firm's three offices in Lewes, Wilmington and Newark, Delaware



**Lindell Kay** got a late start in college and the newspaper business.

Beginning in 2001, at the age of 28, he attended several different colleges and freelanced at numerous papers. In 2005, he attended UNCW and took Theory and Practice of Editing under Shirley Mathews. He dropped the class after three grueling days. In May of 2006, he landed his first full time writing gig with the Topsail Advertiser in Surf City, N.C.

Realizing how valuable AP Style and editing skills were to a career in the newspaper industry, he signed up for Mathews' class again in 2006. He earned a "C," the lowest of all his college grades — the one he worked hardest for and is most proud of.

As his writing improved due to Mathews' torturous ways, he was hired by the Topsail Voice in Hampstead, a weekly paper with a circulation of 5,000. While with the Voice, he completed an internship through UNCW for college credit.

Less than a year later, the Jacksonville Daily News hired him to cover the Topsail Island area. Shortly after that, he moved over to covering crime and courts for the paper, a daily with a circulation of 30,000.



**Kiki Stewart** — She is living in the Alpine resort of Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Germany on the Austrian border and working at a U.S. military resort called

Edelweiss, more specifically, the resort's ski lodge, Hausberg. She writes, "Life is grand, and travel is even better. The world is my playground right now, and it's giving me much material to write about. I can only hope this material will materialize into a beneficial career in my future...but for now, I'm just soaking it all in (and learning a great language, to boot)."



# TIDELINES

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