

CALLIOPE

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POETRY: CREATIVE *AND* THERAPEUTIC

Kristin Clague is a senior at Central College about to graduate in May with her English major and writing emphasis. She's taken on the challenge of a senior honors project in poetry and writing. A love of poetry was not something Clague expected to happen, but the love has grown throughout her years at Central. She took both Poetry Writing and Advanced Poetry Writing with Keith Ratzlaff her sophomore year; she later took the Poetry class offered by Ratzlaff. Clague says, "I felt I'd stumbled upon some kind of talent to write poetry, or at least I took a liking to the form." After spending a year away from poetry

classes, she realized how much she missed the creative outlet.

For her writing emphasis, Clague did an internship in London writing for a magazine. She's returning to her creative outlet and focusing on poetry once again. She's written in many mainstream styles by doing journalism with *The Ray*, Marketing and Media Relations, entertainment writing with her internship in London, and academic writing with all the classes she's taken at Central. She enjoys all these types of writing, but poetry is the best fit for her. She says, "I felt I needed to be more in touch with the creative, therapeutic side of writing, which is why I

picked up poetry again.

Writing poetry not only satisfies my craving for writing but also my need to relax, clear my head, unload and find peace during busy days, even just for an hour or two." Every writer has her specialty.

Clague is now planning for her future; she starts her Master of Arts in Teaching program for secondary education at Drake University. After two years, she will be able to teach. Her goal is to become a high school English teacher and, eventually, become a professor of English.



Clague enjoying life!

DR. KIM KOZA ON SABBATICAL

Dr. Kim Koza is on sabbatical this semester. Many professors take this opportunity to do extra research, travel, etc. I was curious as to what Dr. Koza had chosen for her sabbatical. Here is what she is up to this semester.

What are you doing during your sabbatical? What is your focus?

During my sabbatical, I am researching and planning a new course that I will offer as a 300-level Topics course next fall, tentatively titled "Literature of Peace and

Justice." The research I am doing involves reading and learning about the interdisciplinary field of Peace Studies, which encompasses a wide range of topics including nonviolence, pacifism, conflict resolution, social justice, and human

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DR. KOZA ON SABBATICAL CONT'D.

Look for the next edition of the newsletter in Fall 2008! You won't want to miss it!

“Reading a book is like re-writing it yourself. You bring to a novel, anything you read, all your experience of the world. You bring your history and you read it in your own terms.”

Angela Carter

rights, to name only a few. So far, I have been reading essays in Peace Studies to get a broad perspective and I have also been researching literary works that I might include in my course. In addition to reading philosophical and theoretical essays by many writers (including Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Tolstoy, and many others), I've also been learning about ways that nonviolent resistance has been used in the past, in South Africa and the Philippines, for example.

How does this relate to the courses you teach usually?

This is a new area for me; however, I've been interested in Peace Studies and social justice issues for a long time (going back at least to when I was a Peace Corps volunteer after graduating from college), and I have incorporated some of these issues in my other classes, especially in Literature by Women and African

American Literature.

Why did this seem like the right time for you to take a sabbatical?

Faculty are eligible to apply for a sabbatical after six years of full time teaching, so one reason it seemed like the right time is that I was eligible to take a sabbatical. A more important reason is that the sabbatical is giving me the time to plan the Peace Studies course. One benefit of a sabbatical is to recharge and explore new directions for professional development. I've really been enjoying having the time to read widely and to slow down. An additional reason to take a sabbatical now is that my son Will is a high school junior and is beginning to look at colleges; we have a couple of road trips planned to visit colleges.

Dr. Koza is keeping busy this semester, and we all look forward to seeing her back on campus next semester!

“I'VE REALLY BEEN ENJOYING HAVING THE TIME TO READ WIDELY AND TO SLOW DOWN.”
-DR. KOZA-

THE PROFESSORS HAVE CHOSEN

In case you were looking for some great reading material for the summer, we thought we'd ask the English professors to share a few of their favorites. Picking just a few was a difficult task!

Linda Blatt's pick: *Sex Wars* by Marge Piercy.

Piercy's novel chronicles a young Jewish immigrant's

experiences during a time of emerging rights and sexual freedom for women.

Val Van Kooten's pick: *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt.

In his memoir about growing up in Ireland, McCourt describes sometimes hilarious but often times heart-wrenching life experiences.

Michael Harris's pick: *Gravity's Rainbow* by Thomas Pynchon.

A quest for the truth about a rocket developed by the Nazis during World War II leads the main character into a journey of either deep paranoia or a profound historic discovery.



SENIOR SEMINAR: JANE AUSTEN

Dr. Mary Stark is teaching the senior seminar this semester and chose Jane Austen as her subject. She decided it was the right time for Austen's works with all the new film adaptations as well as all the books and films connected to characters of Austen's novels or Austen herself.

The class is reading all six of Austen's novels: *Northanger Abbey*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, and *Persuasion*. Austen and her novels still

captivate audiences as seen in the recent film, *Becoming Jane*. There is a sense of mystery about Jane Austen. Many wonder how much of the novels relate to her life, which is explored in the film.

Stark wants to provide a relaxed environment for her students to learn and appreciate Jane Austen and her works. Stark likes Austen's style and wit and enjoys the students' reactions. Austen was not a typical woman of her time. This seminar is also

a chance to bring in other English professors and their expertise: Walter Cannon knows the editor of the Jane Austen Journal, *Persuasions*, and Art Johnson may join the class to focus on prose style and wit. It's a chance for everyone to get involved.

Jane Austen's wit will live on through her works for centuries.

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife."

Jane Austen *Pride and Prejudice*



SHAKESPEARE AND MUSIC



Senior, Megan McCombs

Megan McCombs is a senior at Central College, awaiting graduation. In the meantime, she's using her love of music in every way possible. Megan has always been involved in musical pursuits, but at Central she narrowed those to jazz combos and choir. Her most recent interest is music in Shakespeare. Her core focus is in music, and instead of taking another music course,

Megan and Dr. Walter Cannon came up with a way to connect her Shakespeare class with Renaissance music and created a "class" for Megan to take. Megan gives credit to Dr. Cannon for this idea. She said, "He really got me interested in Shakespeare's use of music and how important it is to his plays. He also introduced me to the many musical interpretations that have

been made by artists such as Cleo Lane and Sting. This really goes to prove how timeless Shakespeare's work really is!

As for the overall project, Megan presents music almost every Friday in relation to the plays that the class has read

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THE PROFESSORS HAVE CHOSEN CONT'D.

Josh Dolezal:

The Painted Drum by Louise Erdrich

The Painted Drum is a masterful blend of mystery and magic realism. When Faye Travers discovers an Ojibwe drum while executing the estate of one of her clients, she is drawn into a powerful personal journey that crosses family and tribal boundaries.

Mary Stark:

The Discomfort Zone by Jonathan Franzen.

Franzen's memoir tells of his struggles to find himself as he grows from an awkward adolescent to adulthood through many humorous experiences.

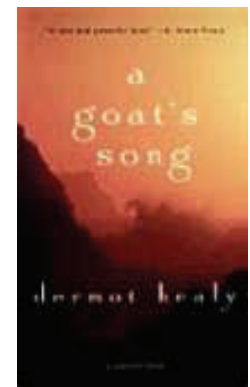
As an added bonus:

A Mind of Its Own by Cordelia Fine

Walter Cannon:

A Goat's Song by Dermot Healy

Set in Ireland, Healy's novel describes the turbulent life of Jack Ferris, a playwright who loses everything and attempts to recreate his life in his imagination.



Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to read this newsletter. This will be my last chance to write for it as I'm graduating in December and spending that last semester in Chicago. I appreciate all the help the English Department as given me through this process. I look forward to reading the next editions as Kendra Gale will take over when she returns from China. ~Lindsey Van Genderen~

"Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple."

-Dr. Seuss

SHAKESPEARE CONT'D...

for that week. In some class periods she sings, while in others the class listens to recordings. Her main goal is to shed some light on the music in Shakespeare's plays because often it gets overlooked. Megan's enjoying Shakespeare more than she expected because she gets to tie in her love of music with the course. She says, "I find it very interesting that Shakespeare often used popular melodies and songs to include his audience into his performances...He was able to draw his audience in by using tunes they were familiar with. I'm sure this made for an exhilarating theater experience!" Imagine what it must have been like listening to that music while sitting at theaters like the Globe; Megan continues to give her class a taste of what it could have been like.

"If music be the food of love, play on,
Give me excess of it; that surfeiting,
The appetite may sicken, and so die"

Duke Orsino, *Twelfth Night*