

August 2006

Alumni Newsletter

What's Inside: From me, to you: a note from the editor



The Old and the New	2-3
CWC Class of 2007	4-5
Plans all Around: CWC and '06 grads	6-7
Alum Publications	8-9
A Word From Dr. Bob	10

Well, here we are with our third edition of the CWC Alumni Newsletter. It is also the 20th anniversary of the opening of the WC. You have my permission to get excited.

This newsletter will attempt to keep the WC in the present for you. Within these pages you'll find recent news, a study of the life of Kyn (our favorite WC apparel model) bios of our new seniors, and info about recent alums and new staff members.

You may want to read this newsletter a bit at a time, savoring each page like you would a spoonful of Dr. Bob's chili.

Like last year, you are receiving a complimentary WC Calendar and Date Book. We hope you enjoy these CWC productions and find them useful.

Keeping with established precedent, we apologize in advance for any errors in information. All complaints and general

grumbings can be sent to Kyn, Official Mascot of the CWC. He can be reached in the WC at 319-399-8743 from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Central Time, Monday through Thursday.

I hope this Newsletter finds you, and finds you well. Please keep in touch!

Happy reading,

Johanna Schnell, '09

Something to get your brain juices flowing...

- 1) What goes around the world, but stays in a corner?
- 2) You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What am I?
- 3) What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?
- 4) I went to the woods and got it. I sat down to seek it. I brought it home with me because I couldn't find it. What is it?

Answers on pg. 10

Freak Accident Imperils WC Staff

On the evening of June 27, five consultants in one Oldsmobile Cutlass Calais were victimized by a fifteen-pound cement phallus.



Betsy Friedrich, a senior Writing Center consultant was driving to Iowa City when a metal lynchpin fell off the back of a dump truck and burst into her front windshield.

Betsy, a Cedar Rapids

Country Club "server," was driving south on I-380 in the left lane, behind a dump truck, when the lynchpin securing the back gate of the dump truck fell from the vehicle.

The lynchpin bounced off the highway and into Betsy's windshield, sending tiny shards of glass into the car. The lynchpin then became lodged in the windshield, directly above the rearview mirror.

Betsy calmly veered across the right lane of traffic and parked her car near mile marker 11. After a few tears and shocked giggles, it

was determined that all passengers of the vehicle were unharmed (with the exception of Bree Graczyk, who later found her undergarments bloodied due to the shattered glass).

Real News!

The excursion of June 27 was well-intended. Dr. Robert Marrs, director of the Coe Writing Center and esteemed gardener, invited Writing Center consultants residing on campus this summer for a cultural outing to Xavier's Pizza, followed by a visit to the Riverside Shakespeare Festi-

Continued on page 8



The beautiful part of writing is that you don't have to get it right the first time, unlike, say, a brain surgeon.
~ Robert Cormier

CWC STATS

(things you might never have thought about...or maybe you have)

- Staf total 1986: 7
- Staff total 2006: 67
- 22 male consultants.
- 7 of those are incoming frosh.
- The sophomore class has 6 more consultants than the other classes.
- 23 consultants from Iowa
- 11 consultants from Illinois
- 7 consultants from Minnesota
- 5 consultants from New Mexico.
- 5 consultants from Wisconsin
- 3 consultants from Colorado
- 1 consultant each from Alaska, California, Hawaii, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Virginia.
- 6 declared English majors
- 5 science majors
- 3 theatre majors
- 7 consultants who go by Katie/Catie
- 28% of the staff wear glasses/contact lenses
- 11 consultants are involved in Greek Life
- 66% of the senior staff have studied abroad

Blast from the Past: Kyn through the ages



Here we see Kyn caring for the WC fish. How thoughtful.

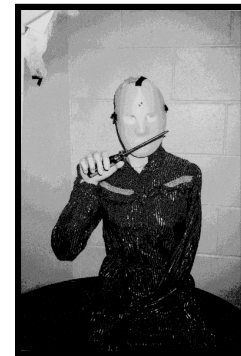
We've previously discussed his love life, but what about his fashion? Dark secrets? Here, we take a look at the life of Kyn.



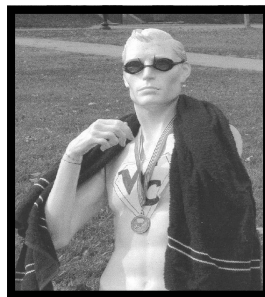
Here we see Kyn building up his clothing line. His minimalist approach includes no more than a wig and tie.



Forgoing minimalism, Kyn layers to perfection.



When cornered, Kyn can become rebellious, tough, and ruthless.



Perhaps reaching midlife crisis, Kyn goes for a more dramatic look. He has also eschewed the dark recesses of the WC to brown up his pale bod.



Stationed at the WC director's office. Understated, with a bit of quirky fun.



Keeping up morale with his work ethic

There you have it folks. Even more to know and love about our stoic WC mannequin. Keep up the good work Kyn!

Coming Attractions:

This year will see an unprecedented addition of testosterone: 10 new males will be entering the Writing Center. Combined with 9 female consultants, the WC looks forward to fresh ideas, whatever the chromosomal source.

First-Years: they're young, they're fresh

Katherine Blanchard

A librarian from New Mexico, who once saw Scottie Pippin on an airplane.

Kevin Dyrland:

A reportedly heavy sleeper from Cedar Rapids who doesn't hesitate to nap in class.

Danielle Fischbach

An Alaskan who loves to write and hike.

Tara Frese

Mother of two, Tara will be returning to Coe as a non-trad.

Jerrold Hughes

A lifeguard who saved two kids this summer. When he's not saving lives, he's drawing anime and cartoons.

Gregory Janssen

A hard man to get a hold of. However, we DO know he plays tennis.

Andrew Johnson:

A music lover who has made a CD with 9 original songs. Cool.

Robert Ketter

As a child, he played war games. He now plans to major in business, an equally ruthless occupation.

Malyssa Oblander

An Arizona native who loves Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

Rebecca Pine

This summer at Coe she studied the astonishing capacities of tube-worms; she reads the classics in her spare time.

Katheryn Paulsen

Swims so much, her natural scent is chlorine.

Nathan Raymond

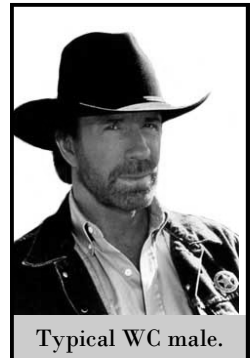
A theater major who loves soccer and Thai food.

Vasic Shatillo

Originally from Russia, Vasic enjoys theater and speaking in Russian.

David Woehrle

A thoughtful gentleman from Illinois who like Miles Davis, tornado chasers, window-washers and children.



Typical WC male.

[Writing is] tougher than Himalayan yak jerky on January. But as any person can tell you, there are days when there's absolutely nothing sweeter than creating something from nothing.

—Richard Krzemien

Sophomores: They slipped through the cracks last year, but now we've got 'em

Andy Decker

This sophomore is a native to Cedar Rapids, and loves to play Frisbee. He does not love it, however, when the tree eats his Frisbees.

Ben Franta

His hometown of Elkader is the only Iowa town named after an Islamic Revolutionary. Ben is addicted to energy bars.

Leigh Hoffer

This religion major is a junior, who spent the last two years at Culver-Stockton College in Missouri. We're glad to have her with us.

Leta Keane

This writing major loves to write poetry and essays. She is reportedly "a sucker for the sesquipedalian."

Adelin Phelps

Dream job is to be a ninja, but plans to major in theater and psychology.

CWC Seniors: The Class of 2007



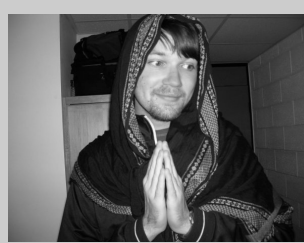
Kevin Adams

Kevin Adams was chillaxing this summer in his Coe apartment at Brandt 10 due to a severe ankle injury he sustained in a rambunctious paintballing excursion. This senior business major and economics minor plans to continue his involvement in the Concert and Jazz Bands this upcoming academic year and will most likely be living off campus. Kevin is also looking forward to another year as the official writing center wrangler and database technician.



Katie Becker

KDB spent her summer serving rich foods to rich people at the Cedar Rapids Country Club, and stickin' it to the Man. This theater major is multit talented and knows how to accessorize with clip-on earrings and 80's fashion. Things she enjoys most are feta cheese, open-windows, sectional couches, prunes, and bare feet—but in no particular order. When she's not at work, KDB enjoys rockin' out with Morris (Mayhem!) 30, and using her newly printed 21-year-old ID. Damn you, KDB!



Tanner Curl

This September, Tanner will turn 62 years old, which makes him the oldest member of the writing center (one year older than Bob). He worked his summer away, toiling on his creative writing thesis and Bob's history project. This year, Tanner would like to revive the Esquire Club, which will focus on the promotion of cigars, pipes, wine, suit jackets, and good conversation.



Aaron Dighton

This summer, Aaron did research for economics which concerns interest rates. Now he's working on his thesis, among several other things. These may or may not include co-moderating Alliance, helping out with PAIRS (Peers Advocating Informed Responsible Sexuality), Alpha Nu, the Walahroo drumline, and CESAW (Coe Egalitarians Supporting the Advancement of Women), spending ungodly amounts of time on Facebook, staring awkwardly, and actually doing homework once a week or so.

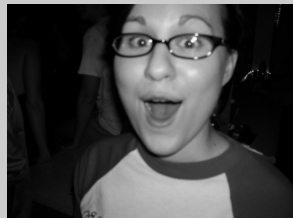
The symbol on the "pound" key (#) is called an octothorpe.

Dr. Seuss wrote "Green Eggs and Ham" after his editor dared him to write a book using fewer than 50 different words.



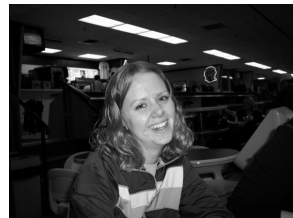
Elizabeth Friedrich

Betsy is a English major who tells people she's going into journalism, though this may or may not be the case. This summer Betsy was a Cedar Rapids Country Club's biotch (alongside Kdb and Lilly), and working on her thesis—BLOGS! "Pop Tart" enjoys eating things that start with Ps and Ts (like Pie and Tuna), while listening to music made with uncommon instruments. She spent a semester in Athens, and if you talk to her about it she might wet herself (BEWARE!). Betsy is also the resident pirate wench of Morris (Mayhem) 30....ARG, matey! Savvy?



Bree Graczyk

Bree LOVES Coe College. This summer, she was charged with compiling this fabulous Coe WC newsletter (A-plus!) and this fall, she assumed the all-important role of Coe Editor-In-Chief of the Coe Cosmos. Will she ever Coe-sleep again? Only Coe-time will tell. When Bree isn't sacrificing her well-being for the sake of Coe College, she can be found Coe-chewin' on tortillas and avocados (her New Mexican flava). Bree hates when Coe people don't put the new toilet paper roll on the dispenser (this Mayhem 30 resident has felt the t.p. wrath, and it ain't coe-fun). Coe-peace.



Shelby Jansen

This summer Shelby was adjusting back to life in the states after spending last semester in Spain. She got a job where she could practice her Spanish helping people register for classes at a center in Marshalltown. They offer free English as a Second Language classes and citizenship classes. This year she'll be finishing up her Sociology and Spanish majors while staying busy with Alpha Sigma Alpha, Circle K and other activities.



Jaelyn McCarthy

This busy woman is soon to be a senior, "which is frightening," technical theatre and design major. Her stay in Dows for next fall includes designing the set for *A Month In The Country* and hopefully lots of other fun shows. In the spring Jackie hopes to be enjoying the gigantic city of New York. Non theatre involvements are limited to the writing center and band/orchestra.

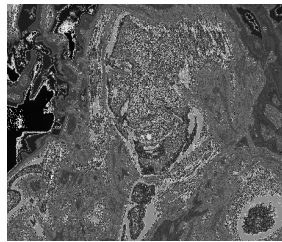
No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

The last thing to happen is the ultimate. The next-to-last is the penultimate, and the third-to-last is the antepenultimate.



Gen Oroszvary

In writing a profile about Gen, the summer staff agreed that three words should be mentioned: hot, hot, and hot. We love the glasses, baby! Gen is home in PA for the summer, although she did plan several road trips. Besides being hot, Gen is also really smart. We hear she takes way over 5 credits per term and acs it. She also wears really cool jeans with patches and randomly dyes her hair blue.



Rachel Schmidt

Rachel is a senior from Spencer, Iowa. This summer she did marketing research in preparation for writing a thesis over the course of the next school year. She was also interning at Farmers State Bank in Marion, doing Marketing and Retail Sales. In the fall, she will once again be making appearances in Eby Fieldhouse as a member of the Kohawk volleyball team.



Brandon Scodius

This summer, he worked for his Uncle Chet on an emu farm and told fortunes under the alias "Uncle Psychic." His interests include anything Chicago: the White Sox, the Bears, Chicago-style hot dogs. He also likes Metallica, a lot. And the color orange. And Tanner Curl. His dislikes include people who put ketchup on hot dogs, shortages in beef, the cost of a flight from Chicago to Alaska, and Tuesdays. Next year, he will continue his studies in basket weaving and keep to his double nap schedule.



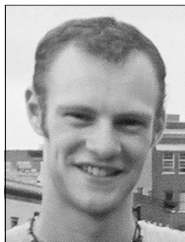
Catie Steinman

Oh, where to begin with Steiner? This Minneapolis native is the queen of procrastination without anxiety, and inspired shock and awe in the general CWC public when she finished her Honors Comp daybook in one night. After May Term, Steiner reluctantly packed up to go home. Her inspiring words? "Reading makes people smart." Next year, she will confess her undying love and devotion to Liz Nicklos, make Murray a kick-ass building, procrastinate less (yeah, right Steiner), and catch one of the cute baby bunnies.

A poem written to celebrate a wedding is called an epithelium.



Sherlock Holmes never said, 'Elementary, my dear Watson.'



Rob Synovec

After spending a semester abroad in London and Florence, our favorite swing dancer has returned to the greater Cedar Rapids area, the place of his birth—Hallelujah! This psychology and speech major worked hard for the money this summer at Smulekoff's furniture store. He's also stretching out his tights, aspiring to become Coe's first Zoot Suit superhero. Powers will include: doin' the Jitterbug faster than a speeding bullet, salsa-ing through mid-air, and swinging women around his head effortlessly.



Amy Veal

While you may cower in the face of a thunderstorm, this Marion native relishes it. Amy, a business and sociology major by trade, watches the Weather Channel religiously and studies the movie *Twister* for storm-chasing pointers. This summer, when she wasn't honing her cyclone skills, Amy guarded the lives of children between the ages of 1 and 10 at a local day care. In the fall, Amy will be reprimanding Brandon and Lillian for finishing the Cheetos and leaving crusty dishes in Morris 26.



Lillian Vince

"Om, bitches," is a greeting often uttered by our yoga yogina and Colorado native. This Theatre major and French minor keeps us updated on the long-forgotten secrets of Coe, as one of the collaborators on the Coe history project this summer. This fall will be Lilly's last semester at Coe, for she will be venturing to the great land of NYC in the spring. Catch her as Emilia in *Desdemona* this September... there may be a cat fight.

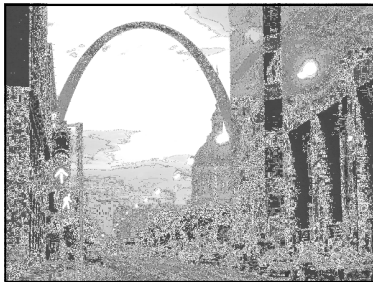
Places Where CWC Staff Have/Are Studying

Australia	Ireland
Belgium	Japan
Cameroon	Korea
Chicago	London
China	Madagascar
Costa Rica	Mexico
Czech Repub.	Mongolia
Egypt	New York
Florence	Senegal
France	Spain
Germany	Sweden
Ghana	Syria
Greece	Wales
Hong Kong	Washington D.C.

St. Louis or Bust: MWCA 2006

This year, the Coe WC is going to St. Louis! The MWCA conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza St. Louis-Clayton Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri.

These presentations are: (1) Introduce the Writing Center staff's electronic portfolio project, present samples of portfolios, explain how the project was initiated, and introduce a variety of staff development opportunities the electronic portfolios now make possible. Research by Katie Becker, Lillian Vince, and Johanna Schnell will be used for this presentation. (2) Describe our Writing Center's efforts to develop a creative writing project for disadvantaged students at an elementary school near our campus. This presentation will use research done by Tanner Curl and Hallie Hottle. (3) A



poster presentation which will present samples of consultant conference forms that our staff have been filling out since 1988. The presentation will consider what kinds of information can be collected and how such data can be used to improve the quality of services for student writers. Katie Becker's summer research will be used for this presentation. (4) The presentation will examine two end-of-term research assignments required of all consultants enrolled in our staff development court: one assignment involves new staff members writing about their interviews with experienced consultants; the second assignment involves experienced consultants investigating a topic of personal concern.

All consultants in our Writing Center are expected to assist with one or more Writing Center publications during the year. In this poster session we will provide a diverse sample of these publications and address benefits that staff members from working on these projects.

Alumni Retreat



On Saturday, August 12, eight Writing Center alums—complimented by a few spouses and friends—met at Coe's Wilderness Field Station for the first Writing Center Alum Canoe Trip. Participants included Kayla Goodfellow, Brandon Kendhammer, Kim Miller, Bethany [Babovec] Zimpleman (and husband Garrett), Jenna Cuddeback (and friend Corey), and Anne Dybsetter (and husband Jeff)

Although the group endured five hours of steady rain on the first day—forcing a retreat to a different campsite—everyone pitched their tents up during a break in the rain, got dried out, and managed to start a fire with wet wood. The group had a great two days recalling the past, gossiping about people not on the trip, eating a lot of food, and canoeing around several beautiful lakes. The final evening was highlighted by a series of wolf pack serenades. A great finale to a wonderful trip.

contest and Dr. Bob doing an impromptu striptease). Unfortunately the retreat's final evening was marred by thunder showers, but our most hardy staff members still enjoyed the dedicated APT actors perform *Julius Caesar* in the rain—a performance none of us will soon forget.



Spring Green: Fall '06 Staff Retreat

We have been doing Writing Center Retreats in (and around) Spring Green, Wisconsin for over 15 years. The basic ruse has always been to finagle ways for the college to pay for our excursions to the American Players Theatre. This year Dr. Bob obtained a new source of funding and so we combined our Labor Day weekend staff retreat (held at

a new retreat center on a farm owned by the University of Wisconsin at Platteville) with an opportunity for the staff to attend three APT plays: *Arms and the Man* by Bernard Shaw and two Shakespeare tragedies: *Julius Caesar* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

The first two days of the retreat worked beautifully: great weather, ample opportunities for walking and bicycling through the late summer Wisconsin countryside, and the wacky inventiveness of the annual Writing Center skits (including an ice cream eating



Class of 2006: What are they doing??

Orthotetrachidecahedrons: the word which describes the shape of bubbles in beer foam.



196 WC-ers: Where are they now?

The following information on current alumni locations was gathered from our Alumni database, which semi-accurate and up-to-date:

- 49: Iowa
- 15: Illinois
- 13: Minnesota
- 10: Wisconsin
- 7: California
- 5: Pennsylvania
- 4: Arizona
- 13: Michigan, Indiana, Ohio
- 10: Colorado, Kansas
- 10: New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland
- 10: Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky
- 8: South Dakota, Nebraska
- 6: Texas, Arkansas, New Mexico
- 5: Georgia, Florida, South Carolina
- 5: North Carolina, Virginia, Washington D.C.
- 4: Idaho, Oregon, Washington
- 7: Germany, India, Bangladesh, Japan, South Africa, Gambia, Korea
- 13: Lost and uncounted!

Corrie Ball

Corrie has gone to Japan to teach English. We know she'll be stellar.

Jesse Doerr

We're hoping he doesn't electrocute himself, as he's in Oregon working in a physics lab with several powerful microscopes.

Emily Dussault

She is bumming around the Twin Cities for the next few months with an internship at children's Musical Theatre camp, and a role in a Fringe Festival show. Who knows what this foxy lady will do next.

Matt Hall

After graduation, Matt Hall has been working on several web projects, including an internship with the Linn County Nonprofit Resource Center. He is now looking for another computer-related job, so if anyone needs help, call this guy.

Beth Hayden

Living alone for the first time ever, Beth is attending the University of Kentucky this fall to get her PhD. In mathematics.

Debbie Heckert

While working on a paper and two short stories, Debbie is looking for a job—preferably one she likes!

Amanda Kabel

Currently working at the National Institute of Environmental Health in North Carolina. Next year she will return to Iowa for medical school. She is hoping never to use the word "y'all" while in NC.

Kathryn McBride

Currently in Tucson, Arizona, she will put her History and Ancient Mediterranean Studies major to good use at the University of Arizona. After that: fieldwork, research, and a PhD.

Paul Munson

Following the footsteps of Sarah Bruncker, Paul is attending Penn State and majoring in chemistry. As he says "I get paid to be a nerd."

Nathan Nass

This free spirit has left the country, complete with the prestigious Fullbright Scholarship and is studying music in Korea.

Diane Nelson

Working for Stamats, becoming a pro with SPSS software, assisting with market research, and moving into a new home.

Kristin Patch

After majoring in Public Relations and Music, she obtained a public relations position with the Omaha Symphony Orchestra

Andy Phillips

Andy is currently going to the University of Iowa for a degree in physical therapy. Hopefully he will find time to continue running so that he can keep his sexy legs in tip-top shape.

Lisa Piskor

Working in Cedar Rapids as a writer. Rumor has it she has both an apartment AND a cat.

Mary Rosebrough

Now that she has a major in Athletic Training, Mary is going to further improve her athletic care technique by getting her doctorate in physical therapy at the University of Minnesota.

Hannah Ross-Suits

She will be spending the next two years in beautiful Gambia as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching math and science.

Jessica Schau

This busy woman is taking a year off before law school to work at the Continuing Legal Education Department at the Georgetown University Center in Washington D.C.

Kate Taber

Kate is at Princeton, New Jersey to begin a master's program at Princeton Theological Seminary. If anyone is in New York or Philadelphia, let her know!

There are thousands of thoughts lying within a man that he does not know until he takes up a pen and writes.

—William Makepeace Thackeray



History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it.

—Winston Churchill



The Freak Accident to End All Freak Accidents

How 5 Writing Center Consultants Survived an Afternoon of Peril

Publications

Continued from page 1

Pizza, followed by a visit to the Riverside Shakespeare Festival.

Ten current consultants and three alums shared a Taco Pizza, a Xavier's Conglomeration, a Hawaiian, a sausage/green pepper, and a pepperoni pizza, all under the able hand of waitress and fellow Writing Center consultant Sarah Small.



Both men reiterated how lucky the passengers of the Oldsmobile were; had the lynchpin gone through the windshield, any one of the passengers (but probably Ben Franta) could have died. Said tow truck driver, Joel.

Left: Betsy Freidrich, and Bree Graczyk share a moment of despair. Below: Johanna Schnell surveying the damage



“It’s amazing it didn’t go through all the way. It couldn’t have hit more perfectly if you’d tried.”

After stimulating discussions about Adam Sandler’s new film and the hot ass of Cleveland Indians’ right fielder Casey Blake, nine excited Shakespeare fans drove toward Iowa City and the Riverside production of “Twelfth Night.”

The passengers of the Oldsmobile were unable to see Shakespeare in Iowa City but were found later that same evening harassing drive-thru customers outside of

the Dairy Queen on First Avenue.

Betsy Friedrich got in her car and started driving Bree Graczyk (front passenger), Katie Becker (back driver’s side), Ben Franta (middle), and Johanna Schenll (back passenger’s side) to Iowa City. This is when disaster struck.

The dump truck did not stop after the accident and thus the owner of the lynchpin was never found nor prosecuted. If you would like to see the lynchpin or the rearview mirror from the Cutless Culais, you may visit Morris (Mayhem) 30. Admission, as of this printing, is free.

A Johnson County sheriff arrived after many phone calls were made to parents and friends, recounting the near-death experience.

In the words of Betsy Friedrich, owner of a shattered windshield and broken heart, “F**kin’ Pipe.”

What have our Alums been up to in the writing world? Here we take a look at this very topic.

Laura Farmer had her piece “C.E.” published in the *Iowa Review* just last year, in the winter 2005/6 edition.

Lars Pearson is now the owner/publisher of *Mad Norwegian*, a publishing firm which produces reference guides to television shows such as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, as well as the *Fiction Paradox* book series. According to www.madnorwegian.com, a reference guide is “pretty much a dictionary for nerds, detailing relevant story summaries, character development, ass-whuppings, and much much more.” He even has an entry about himself in Wikipedia.

Amanda Moore has been quite busy, publishing poems and essays in small literary journals and anthologies. Her most recent publications are some poems called “Opening the Hive” and “Las Altas” in the *Cream City Review*. As she had a baby last fall, Amanda has been busy with other tasks besides poetry writing.

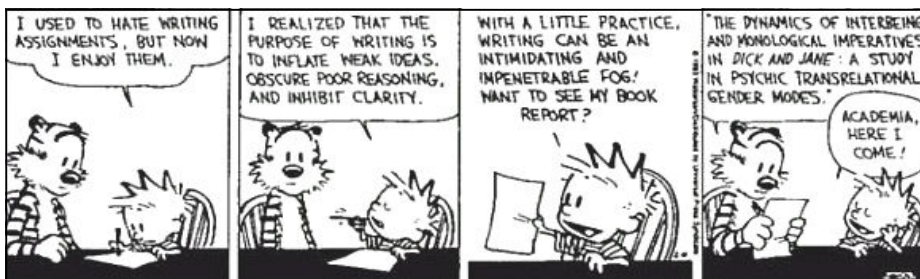
Will Smith serves as a writer and editor for a car magazine in California.

Chris Leyva's play *All Grace* was performed in May during the Iowa New Play Festival in Iowa City. The script is based on the true story of the Jewish sculptor Jacques Lipchitz creating a statue of the Virgin Mary for a Catholic church in the Alps.

Continued on page 9

Alums! What are you up to??

From getting your essays published to starting up a tuna fish canning factory, the Alumni Newsletter staff wants to know! Contact Dr. Bob at rmarrs@coe.edu, and he might remember to forward it to us.



Cedar Lake: A “Townie” Perspective

By KATHRYN BECKER

Dammit. DAMN. IT. I somehow managed to cut my finger on this blasted hook AGAIN. I was fishin’ over in Cedar Lake, lots of people are scared of the fish that comes out of Cedar Lake but I say to them, what do you think the fish is gonna do? EAT ya? Bite you in half? Infest your yuppy little children and your yuppy little wife? No. Sometimes you get fish that have a fin or two in the wrong place or a mangled eyeball... the real interestin’ ones are the multi-colored ones. But fish are fish. You kill ‘em, you cook ‘em, you eat ‘em. Today was gonna be a good day. I caught myself three fish in the first hour of fishin’ and then I cut my finger. My goddamned finger on my goddamned hook. So I walk back home and I decide to take a short cut through this hoity-toity college campus. I cut

through the grassy area in the middle and some girl, some perky little girl wearin’ bright colors and carryin’ big books, comes up to me and asks if I am okay. I push my hair out of my eyes, blood dripping down my hand, and glare at this hoity-toity girl. I keep walkin’. She calls after me, asks if I need a band-aid. Do I look like a man who would use a goddamned band-aid? No. Band-aids are for yuppies. That girls pisses me off. So you know what I do? I take one of my three fish, the purple one with the fur, and I launch it in her direction. And goddamn! That fish hits her right in the face. Funniest thing I’ve seen in a long time. Floppy fish smackin’ this girl. Maybe today is a good day after all.

Publications, continued

Late in the summer Chris was in New York and directed a production of Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro* for a new organization called Project Opera of Manhattan. Our contacts in the opera world inform us that one of the soprano soloists in that production was Miriam Browning-Nance. Chris and his wife Rachael [Riggs] have now moved to Columbus, Ohio, where Rachael will be working on a masters degree in dance at Ohio State University.

This past fall **Betsy Dougherty** joined the faculty of the Department of English at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Her most recent publication is “An Angel in the House: The Act of Union and Anthony Trollope’s Irish Hero,” which appeared in *Victorian Litera-*



I am one who loves, like a drunkard his drink, the smell of ink, and the sight of a great pile of white paper that may be scrawled upon always gladdens me.

—Sherwood Anderson

ture and Culture. According to an SIU web site, Betsy is working on “a book-length study of the discursive implications of the Anglo-Irish union, and on articles and conference presentations preliminary to a monograph on the Irish literary childhood.”

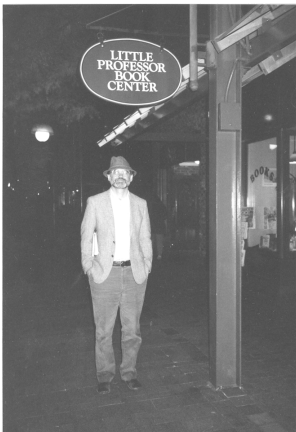
Pictured here in this newsletter (head partially covered by a lampshade), **Susan Brassler** is an Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. Susan’s recent publications include the following titles: “Differential covariation in taste responsiveness to bitter stimuli in rats,” “Methadone doses of 100 mg or greater are more effective than lower doses at suppressing heroin self-administration in opioid-dependent volunteers,” “Alcohol effects during acamprosate treatment: a dose-response study in humans,” and “Alcohol activates a sucrose-responsive gustatory neural pathway.”

This spring **Faruk Abdulla**, known to us in his Coe days as Carl Bloom, sent us copies of his first novel. *Three Girls: A Twenty-First Century Tale* was published in Dhaka, Bangladesh by The Devil’s Workshop.

What Have We Here?



This 1991 photo speaks for itself. Both individuals in this photo now hold doctorates from two of America’s most prestigious institutions



Dr. Bob Speaks

Here are a few things I've been thinking about lately:

Margie and I just celebrated our 39th wedding anniversary. Neither of us can believe we have been married for 39

years. I vividly recall when her parents celebrated their 40th. In my youth four decades seemed like an incredibly long time for two people to live together. Now, 39 years feels like we're just beginning. We've got tons of things we would still like to do.

I'm amazed by how much traveling I've managed in the last 18 months. Since May 1, 2005, I've enjoyed the following trips:

- Taught a May Term course in Great Britain (with a week in Lake District and a week in Scotland; next year's May Term Writers Colony class will be spending three weeks in the Lake District).
- Taught a May Term class on writing about baseball (we saw 17 baseball games in 10 Midwest cities in 21 days)
- Taught two nature writing classes in Northern Minnesota, with canoe trips into the Boundary Waters
- Spent the Christmas holidays in Key West, Florida to see my daughter perform a Caribbean version of the Nutcracker
- Traveled twice to Vermont to see my daughter dance in ballets in the Green Mountains
- In January of '06 spent two weeks with Bob Drexler, John Chaimov, and Margie visiting Thailand, Inner Mongolia, and

Japan (we were organizing a new Asia term program for Coe students beginning next spring). The experience of walking the streets of Hanoi just blew my mind—something I never dreamed could possibly occur in my lifetime.

- In April returned with Margie to China and Japan (the trip included an incredible journey to a remote mountainous area in Hunan Province)

For a Kansas farm boy who had never been more than 200 miles from home when he left for college in the fall of 1963, it boggles my mind to consider all the places I visit because of my work and family.

I've been blessed with incredible students during my 26 years at Coe—and double blessed by those of you who have worked in the Writing Center. Earlier today I sat in my office and read mailing labels. What a diverse, creative, stimulating group—people who have brought so many rich memories to my life (such as walking into a motel room in Kansas City and seeing two staff members with lamp shades on their heads).

I would be remiss if I didn't add a special "thank you" to all the CWC alums who have given to the Writing Center's gift account (202-3627-3100). The fund is now approaching \$8000—a significant total because once we reach \$10,000, we can start adding the interest to the principal. We received over \$2000 in donations last year, and I feel reasonably confident that by next year we will have surpassed the \$10,000 threshold. Thanks to everyone for helping add to our pot of gold. Those funds will eventually make it much easier for my successors to finance the trips and staff development activities that have played such a major role in our history.

Bob

Writing Center Trivia

The WC has experienced more than any of us can comprehend. Here are a few of the tidbits, freak occurrences, and pure randomness inherent in the Writing Center.

- 1) When Dr. Bob sold his car to the first WC consultant ever, the agreed price was two cheesecakes.
- 2) The WC is on its third coffee roaster, as the first burst into flames in the winter of 2003.
- 3) Number of inter-WC marriages: 5 (soon to be 6, according to rumor).

If you have a story of your own you would like to share, send it in for possible/propable publication in next year's Alumni Newsletter.

Random Trivia

On the island of Jersey it's against the law for a man to knit during the fishing season.

According to a British law passed in 1845, attempting to commit suicide was a capital offense. Offenders could be hanged for trying.

In Caracas, Venezuela, it is customary for the streets to be blocked off on Christmas eve so that the people can rollerskate to church.

Riddle Answers

- 4) A splinter
3) A towel
2) An ear of corn OR a chicken
1) A stamp

