

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER 2013-2014

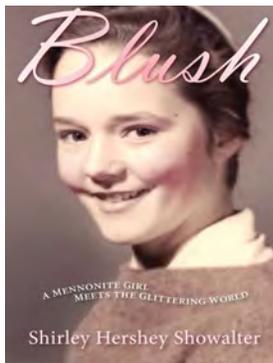
Highlights:



Meeting the US Poet Laureate,
Natasha Trethewey *page 2*



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Dallat and Ann Marie Fyfe, *page 4*



Former GC President Showalter
Shares her memoir, *page 6*

Poet Julia Kasdorf Inspires Students



BACK ROW: (left to right) Sara Klassen ('14), Kate Yoder ('15), Suzanne King ('14), Christine Kennel, Briana Schrock ('15), Kolton Nay ('15). **FRONT ROW:** Julia Spicher Kasdorf, Hayley Brooks ('15), Emma Gerig ('14), Nikki Allison ('14), Kayla Riportella ('16), Sara Albaba ('15), Kate Stoltzfus ('14).

By Kayla Riportella

Award-winning poet Julia Spicher Kasdorf served as the guest writer for the annual Goshen College English department writing workshop April 28-May 2, 2014.

Kasdorf attended Goshen College before transferring to New York University to study poetry. She has been a frequent campus guest, as well as the 2004 poetry workshop instructor and

the 2012 S.A. Yoder Lecturer.

Kasdorf, a Professor of English and Women's Studies at Penn State University, gave a reading of her current work about the effects of natural gas fracking in Pennsylvania.

Her previous poetry collections include *Sleeping Preacher* (U. Pittsburgh Press, 1992), *Eve's Striptease* (U. Pittsburgh Press, 1998), and *Poetry in America* (U. Pittsburgh Press, 2011).

Former Professor Visits GC

Todd Davis visited Goshen College on September 24, 2013, to read poetry from his new book, *In the Kingdom of the Ditch* (Michigan State UP, 2013). Davis taught in the Goshen College English department from 1996 to 2002. He now teaches English, creative writing, and environmental studies at Penn State's



Altoona campus. "I grew up in Elkhart County, so returning to Goshen is truly a homecoming," Davis said.

Davis' prize-winning poems have been published widely and even featured on Garrison Keillor's "The Writer's Almanac."

English Department Picnic

In September, English, English Writing, and TESOL majors and minors joined the English department faculty for the annual fall picnic at the College Cabin. Tamales, ice cream, and games were the order of the day, as all the participants enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship and al fresco dining.



Meeting the US Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey



BACK ROW: (left to right) Natasha Trethewey, U.S. Poet Laureate, Maddie Gerig ('17), Hayley Brooks ('15), Sara Klassen ('14), Dominique Chew ('15), Kolton Nay ('15), Elizabeth Derstine ('16), Jake Smucker ('15). **FRONT ROW:** Prof. Ann Hostetler, Lexi Kantz ('14), Elizabeth Franks North ('16), Kate Stoltzfus ('14), Jacob Martin ('15), Prof. Jessica Baldanzi.

By Kate Stoltzfus

In mid-October, a group of Goshen College students traveled with Professors Jessica Baldanzi and Ann Hostetler to hear the U.S. Laureate Poet Natasha Trethewey speak at Bluffton University, Ohio, where her own mother had been a student.

Trethewey read from her Pulitzer Prize-winning collection, *Native Guard* (Houghton Mifflin, 2006), which entwines the racial history of the South with the history of her parents' biracial marriage and being black in America.

In a question and answer session, Trethewey spoke of her childhood in Mississippi and Atlanta, of her white father, and of her black mother, who died when Trethewey was only 19. Trethewey also talked about the memoir

she is currently writing about her mother.

"Some things I think we forget just to be able to survive," she said. "To remember them would be too difficult. This project may bring back things I've necessarily forgotten."

Trethewey first published poetry only a little over a decade before holding one of the most prominent positions in the poetic world. She first chose poetry as a medium during her time in a fiction-writing program. A classmate dared her to write a poem. She thought it would be a terrible one. But it wasn't, she said: it was rather good.

"I don't think I found poetry," she said. "I think it found me."

Adapted from The Record.

Hostetler Authors Artist Catalog

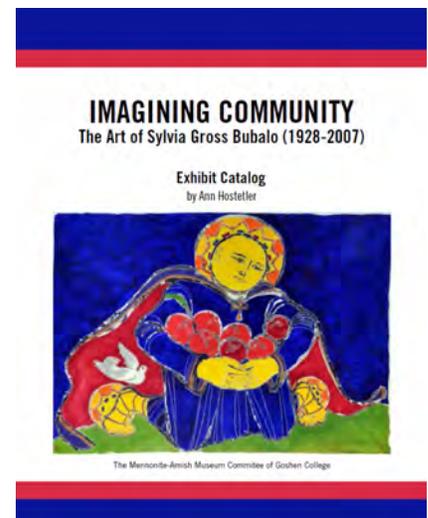
By Nina Fox

The art of Sylvia Gross Bubalo ('51) was featured in the Good Library Gallery exhibit (August 12-November 16, 2013), "Reimagining Community." The exhibit honored the vision and memory of a "pioneering fine artist among Mennonites," Prof. Ann Hostetler explained.

The artist's brother, Leonard Gross, curated the exhibit, which was sponsored by the Mennonite-Amish Museum committee of Goshen College.

Gross Bubalo grew up in eastern Pa., attended Goshen College, and studied at the Art Institute of Chicago where she met her husband, Vladimir Bubalo. Although faced with the challenges of muscular dystrophy, Gross Bubalo made art before turning to poetry.

Hostetler wrote the commentary for the exhibit's catalog, which was proposed and funded by Gross Bubalo's brother.



Former GC President Showalter Returns to Share Memoir

By Kate Stoltzfus

"It's always kind of a mystery how a new audience will respond to my book," said former Goshen College president Shirley Showalter. "The question is, how are all of us connected by the fiber of relationships we don't even see over time? I hope it will be quite obvious I've been connected to Goshen all along."

Blush (Herald Press, 2013) focuses on Showalter's childhood in Litiz, Pa. and her time as a young adult coming of age. The Goshen College English department hosted a reading, reception, and book signing on the 2013 homecoming weekend. Showalter shared excerpts with an enthusiastic crowd that munched on a selection of traditional Mennonite foods, including

Whoopie Pies, cookies, pickled red beets, Wilbur Buds and Menno Tea.

The seed of Showalter's memoir was planted when she taught Expository Writing classes at Goshen College. She was inspired by students' personal essays and started writing about her own key life moments. Showalter began teaching at Goshen College in 1976, becoming a Professor of English in 1989 before serving as the college's first female president from 1996-2004.

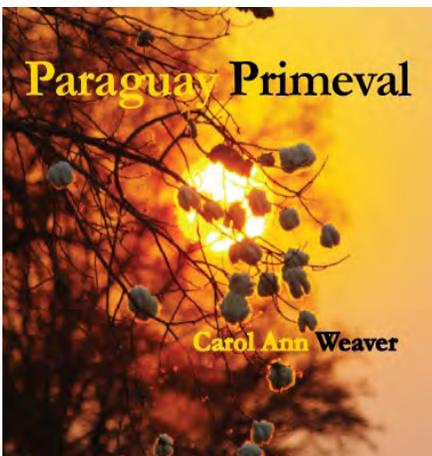
Showalter worked as Vice President of Programs at the Fetzer Institute in Kalamazoo, Mich., from 2004 to 2010. She credits the origins of her memoir and her readership to her blog, "100 Memoirs," which she began in 2008 after attending a writing conference that



stressed the importance of building a social media community. Her website offers a subscription to weekly "Magical Memoir Moments" writing prompts, which encouraged others to begin their own memoirs.

Showalter now lives in Harrisonburg, Va., with her husband Stuart.

Mennonite Literature in Music



By Elizabeth Derstine

On October 29, 2014, Canadian Mennonite musician and composer Carol Ann Weaver performed *Paraguay Primeval*, which sets literary text to music and pictures in a multimedia production that relays the history of Mennonites in Paraguay, focusing on the Chaco region where Russian Mennonites settled in the 1920s.

Inspiration for *Paraguay Primeval* struck Weaver when she first visited Paraguay in 2009 for the Mennonite World Conference and toured the Chaco

region, which is sometimes referred to as a "green hell."

The stories about Paraguay come from Rudy Wiebe's novel *Blue Mountains of China* (McClelland, 1970), Dora Dueck's book *Under the Still Standing Sun* (Kindred, 1989), and Henry and Esther Regehrs's translation of *Schoenbrunn Chronicles* (Sweetwater, 2009), compiled by Agnes Balzer and Lieselotte Dueck. Weaver selected, edited, and put together texts, which were performed by jazz singer Rebecca Campbell.

Prof. Ann Hostetler, herself a Mennonite poet, critic, and editor, and teacher of a Mennonite literature course, worked with Weaver and Campbell to bring the performance to Goshen College.

The songs share stories of travel and of individual and community experiences varying from the tragic (a family who dies one by one of typhoid) to the beautiful (the mild Chaco spring). Weaver believes that music transmits experience in emotional terms that text alone cannot convey. "Music can carry words over all kinds of landscapes," she said.

CD Profits go to MCC and Global Family Foundation work in the Chaco among indigenous peoples, particularly

for homeless children and single women. CD's of *Paraguay Primeval* are available for purchase by contacting Weaver through her website, <http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/~caweaver/index.html>.

Midwest Bard

Goshen alumna Lindsay Nance ('06) joined with Chicago-based Carrie Lee Bland Kendall in 2013 to found GoShakes, a new theater company dedicated to bringing "reimagined" classical works to Goshen. Nance and Bland worked with local actors for productions such as "Romeo and Juliet" and "A Sonnet Soundscape" in downtown spaces like Better World Books, the Goshen Theatre, Kelly Jae's Café, and Ignition Garage.

The GoShakes company also includes Goshen graduates such as Michelle Milne ('94), Stephanie Hirschler Honderich ('06), Anika Roth ('07), Lauren Treiber ('14), and Phil Weaver-Stoesz ('12). Learn more about GoShakes at www.goshakes.org.

See insert and the English department web page for alumni news. Send your updates to English@goshen.edu.

2013 Horswell Fellow Reflects on Experience

By Hayley Brooks

Over the past year, I became increasingly thankful for email. My job as the Horswell fellow would have been impossible without it. I acted as the liaison between the authors of the four Pinchpenny chapbooks, the Pinchpenny board, and the submitters to Broadside and the Broadside board.

In the past year, I learned to organize, both in terms of archiving Broadside and organizing the revision suggestions of five or six different people into a communicable form to present to the authors of Broadside and Pinchpenny. I enjoyed becoming part of a creative process from the editor's side.

The Broadside board released the work of three visiting writers and five student writers. Todd Davis, Anne-Marie Fyfe and C.L. Dallat all provided work for publication and Julia Spicher Kasdorf judged our "hair" contest in the fall, where all submissions required a hair theme. I was also fortunate to work with many student artists to create designs and sketches to accompany the poems published by Broadside.

The Horswell Fellowship provided me with invaluable experience in editing, organizing and communication. I became more aware of ways to create poetry and creative writing for specific audiences. In my career as a writer and editor, I will definitely use the skills I gained.



PHOTO BY ERIN IVERSON

Hayley Brooks ('15), the 2013-2014 Horswell Fellow, is an English Writing major from Littleton, Colorado.

Faculty Select 2014 Horswell Fellow



English faculty named Kate Yoder ('15) the 2014-2015 Horswell Fellow. Yoder is an English writing and art double major.

Yoder will work alongside department chair Ann Hostetler and sit on both Broadside and Pinchpenny Press editorial boards. She will serve as the executive secretary for both boards and will be responsible for Broadside design and publications. She will also work closely with Pinchpenny Press authors through the publishing and marketing process.

Yoder is the editor of *Red Cents 2014* and will edit the 2015 issue. She is also an intern for the Center for Mennonite Writing.

Students Win Awards for GC's Literary Arts Magazine



Armarlie Grier ('16), Phil Scott ('14), and Kate Yoder ('15) traveled with Prof. Ann Hostetler to IUPUI to attend the annual ICPA conference and collect the awards.

By Kayla Riportella

For the second year in a row, *Red Cents*, the English department's annual literary arts journal, brought home awards from Indiana Collegiate Press Association (ICPA) in April. Grace Parker ('13) won first place in the creative nonfiction category for her essay, "Breathing Control." Phil Scott ('14) won first place for the best short poem, "Performance at Aldi." Becca Kraybill ('13) won second place in the best free verse poem category for "Wen Hua Lu (Fall)." The magazine, edited by Mary Roth ('13) and designed by Emma Brooks ('13), won a third place award in the "Literary Magazine of the Year" category.

Because the literary magazine awards are not tiered by institutional size or enrollment. GC competes alongside

schools such as Notre Dame, Indiana University, and Valparaiso University. Professors Jessica Baldanzi and Ann Hostetler are faculty advisers.

English writing majors Kate Stoltzfus ('14) and Kate Yoder ('15), co-editors of the *Red Cents 2014*, were also among the many winners of the ICPA journalism awards earned by the Goshen College Record.

Red Cents, a student-initiated publication, began in 2005 to showcase student writing, visual art and graphic design. When Prof. Hostetler first submitted the journal for the ICPA competition, *Red Cents 2012* earned top honors for best single issue (1st place), best overall design (3rd place), and best free verse poem (1st and 2nd place).

Release of Goshen Graphix II

By Kayla Riportella

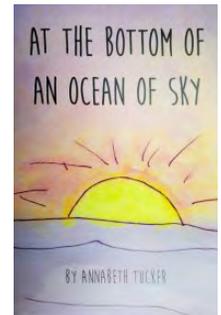
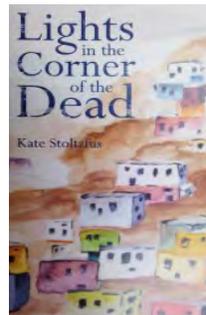
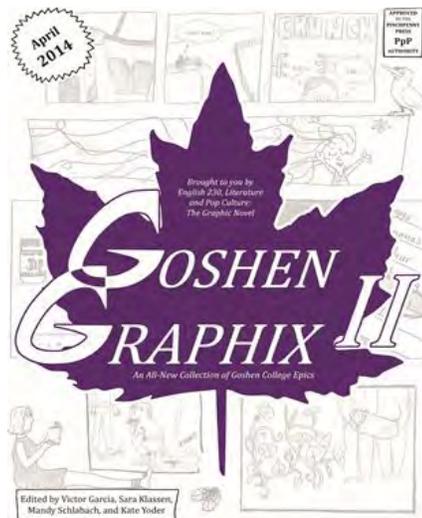
Ten students contributed to *Goshen Graphix II*, an anthology of illustrated memoirs developed for Professor Jessica Baldanzi's May 2013 course "Literature and Pop Culture: The Graphic Novel." The release party took place at Better World Books April 4, 2014.

Goshen Graphix II is the third graphic memoir anthology to be released by Pinchpenny Press. Course participants Victor Garcia ('16), Sara Klassen ('14), Mandy Schlabach ('15), and Kate Yoder ('15) edited selections from course projects, which are memoirs in the style of a graphic narrative.

The eight memoir pieces accompanied by an illustrated introduction included work by Kate Friesen ('14), Victor Garcia ('16), Emma Gerig ('14), Liz Reese ('15), Mandy Schlabach ('15), Sam Smucker ('15), Stephanie Swartzendruber ('14), Laurel Woodward ('14), and Kate Yoder ('15).

Prof. Baldanzi began teaching the graphic novel class in 2008 and values the way graphic narratives influence perspective. "It's not only how to say things but how to visualize things," Baldanzi said. "Students have to think creatively about different ways to tell a story." For three online Graphic memoirs, see <http://www.goshen.edu/english/publishing/ppp/>.

A version of this story also appeared in *The Elkhart Truth* on April 2, 2014.



Pinchpenny Publications 2013-2014

By Kayla Riportella

Goshen College's Pinchpenny Press released seven books this spring: *Exposition 25*, *Red Cents 2013*, *Goshen Graphix II*, and four books authored by individual students.

Exposition 25 is a collection of nonfiction essays written for Expository Writing classes between 2009-2013. Kate Yoder ('15) edited the collection.

Kate Friesen, a senior English major from Archbold, Ohio, wrote a book of poems and stories titled *Human/Animal*, which takes a quirky look at connections between animals and people. Emma Gerig, a senior interdisciplinary major from Goshen, illustrated the book.

Kate Stoltzfus, a senior English writing and journalism major from Goshen, wrote *Lights in the Corner of the Dead*, a collection of short stories inspired by the lives of women whom Stoltzfus met on SST in Peru.

Lauren Treiber, a senior peace, justice and conflict studies major and writing minor from Grand Rapids, Mich., wrote *There is a Famine in the Land*, a collection of poems focused on Treiber's experience of moving from darkness to light in her encounters with self, mother and Cambodia.

Annabeth Tucker, a senior English writing major from Erie, Pa., wrote *At the Bottom of an Ocean of Sky*, a candid memoir of her experience with bipolar disorder and the journey from mania through hospitalization, depression, new stability, and faith.

All Pinchpenny Press publications were submitted to a student/faculty board for approval and revision. The 2013-14 Pinchpenny board included Hayley Brooks ('15), Annabeth Tucker ('14), Drea Mast ('15), Kolton Nay ('15), Profs. Skip Barnett and Patrick Mello.

All Pinchpenny titles are available for purchase. Contact English@goshen.edu. For the list of titles and prices, see <http://www.goshen.edu/english/publishing/ppp/titles/>.

Adapted from the *Goshen College news* April 3, 2014.

Broadside Features Student Competition

For the third year, Broadside hosted a competition, asking students to submit works that use a common word. This year's "hair" contest was judged by poet Julia Kasdorf. First place went to Emma Gerig ('15) for *Life Makes Me Itch and Gag*. Kate Stoltzfus ('14) received second place for *Gold*.

Other 2013-14 Broadside included:

The Year of Not Dancing - C.L.

Dallat

Novgorod Sidings - Anne-Marie Fyfe

Creator - Sara Klassen ('14)

Exposure - Jess Sprunger ('15)

Who Sings of Peace is My Kind of Child - Maddie Gerig ('17)

I'll Catch You Up - Todd Davis

The Broadside board selects poems and short fiction from anonymous submissions, as well as guest poets. The 2013-14 Broadside board included Hayley Brooks, ('15) Dominique Chew ('15), Elizabeth Franks-North ('16), Kolton Nay ('15), Nina Fox ('14), Kate Friesen ('14) and Profs. Ann Hostetler and Jessica Baldanzi.

See the English department web page for Broadside at <http://www.goshen.edu/english/publishing/broadside/archives/>.

Poets Cahal Dallat and Anne-Marie Fyfe offer Irish Literary Festival for 43rd S.A. Yoder Lecture

Irish-born and London-based husband and wife poets Cahal Dallat and Anne-Marie Fyfe presented Goshen College's annual S.A. Yoder Lecture, "An Irish Literary Festival," in Rieth Recital Hall on April 1, 2014.

Josh Yoder ('14), performed Irish fiddle music for the event, which was followed by a book signing and reception.

Anne Marie Fyfe has read throughout the world and on BBC radio and television. Fyfe's latest poetry collection, *Understudies: New and Selected Poems* (Seren Books, 2010), brings together poems from her first three collections.

Cahal Dallat is a poet, critic and musician who has worked in television, publishing, public utilities, construction and information technology. He plays several instruments, and writes on Irish fiction and drama for literary journals, including the *Times Literary Supplement* and the *Guardian*.

The Year of Not Dancing (Blackstaff Press, 2009) is his most recent poetry collection.

On the afternoon of the reading Anne-Marie Fyfe conducted a poetry



writing workshop for selected Goshen College, Goshen High School, and Bethany students and faculty.

The S.A. Yoder Lecture Series, begun in 1972, honors Dr. Samuel A. Yoder, a professor at Goshen College between 1930 and 1970. The English department sponsors the lecture, which has been funded by gifts from the friends and family of S.A. Yoder.

S.A. Yoder's daughter, Elaine Unzicker ('61), who passed away in

2013, contributed a generous gift to the program. Elaine and her sister Phyllis Yoder ('57), along with husband Carl Yoder ('57), have been strong supporters of the lecture series.

To read more about past S.A. Yoder guests, see the English department web page. The department welcomes continued alumni support to bring internationally renowned guests to campus.

Adapted from Goshen College news

Faculty News

In August 2013, **Jessica Baldanzi** began a bi-weekly comics review blog "Commons Comics" for Goshen Commons. Baldanzi spoke about "What English Professors Do All Day" to Notre Dame graduate students in November 2013. In February, Baldanzi presented "Chris Ware's Building Stories: Revisiting and Revising Modernism in the Midwest" at the Conference on Literature and Culture, University of Louisville, KY. Her essay, "On Letting Go," is part of the collection *Three Minus One* (She Writes Press, 2014). She coordinated a reading for Michigan and Illinois contributors at Goshen's Better World Books on June 7. Baldanzi received a Miner Grant to take a fiction class during the summer of 2014

through The New School in New York.

In October, **Skip Barnett** attended the "At Home in the World Institute," a conference sponsored by the American Council on Education in Washington, DC. Representing Goshen College's Center for International and Intercultural Education (CIIE), Barnett learned that GC is ahead of other institutions in integrating international and American domestic minority education. Barnett has been awarded a sabbatical for the 2014-15 academic year. While continuing as International student adviser, he will study new methods of teaching TESOL in the K-12 classroom, take graduate courses in TESOL pedagogy, and attend the international TESOL conference in Toronto.

Ann Hostetler reviewed Julia

Spicher Kasdorf's *Poetry in America* and Di Brandt's *Walking to Mojácar* (Turnstone, 2010) for *The Mennonite Quarterly Review* and Jean Janzen's *Entering the Wild* for the *Journal of Mennonite Studies*. Her essay, "Resurrecting the Dead Girl: Modernism and the Problem of History in Beloved, Jazz, and Paradise," will appear in *Toni Morrison: Memory and Meaning* (University of Mississippi Press, 2014). In June, she read her poetry and presented a paper on Rudy Wiebe's fiction at The Sound in the Land: Music and the Environment conference at Conrad Grebel University College in Ontario. She co-edits the *Journal of the Center for Mennonite Writing* and is helping plan the next Mennonite Writing Conference in Fresno, Calif., March 12-15, 2015.

Martin Birky Travels and Serves



Above: Beth Martin Birky signing the Belfast peace wall in Northern Ireland.

By Beth Martin Birky

My sabbatical goal was to engage in an important part of a Goshen College education: service. I wanted to practice the values of equality, justice, and peace rather than just read or teach about them; I wanted to learn with my heart and hands, and not just my mind.

In October I volunteered for four weeks at Corrymeela Center, a peace and reconciliation organization that hosts workshops and retreats to facilitate understanding and healing in Northern Ireland. Living in a dorm setting, I worked alongside twenty other volunteers and staff who hosted groups and cleaned and cooked.

The spiritual practice of daily worship kept our focus on God as the greater source of peace in the world, a key part of Corrymeela's vision.

Alumni Sponsor Scholarships

Thanks to a gift honoring GC alumna Sara Ann Freed ('67), students interested in a career of publishing or editing receive financial scholarships. The 2013-14 **Freed Scholars** were Kate Stoltzfus ('14) and Kate Yoder ('15).

The Kenneth Steider ('51) scholarship was established to support students studying to teach English

From January to April, I lived at Whitworth University's campus in San Rafael de Heredia, Costa Rica, and taught a Gender in Central America course. As in Goshen's SST program, Whitworth students live with host families and study language, culture, and history. With courses in a traditional 3-hour format, students are on campus from 9-5. Because of the intensive teaching schedule and remote location, my service focused more on Whitworth colleagues and students than on Costa Ricans. I was able to catch up with Costa Rican friends, visit familiar women's organizations, and make new friends with Whitworth students and staff and with faculty at the international school where my son attended.

In these two settings, I was reminded that service involves "being" in relationship to other people, as well as "doing" things for others. In Northern Ireland, I washed windows, but I also listened to people's stories over tea and biscuits. In Costa Rica, I prepared lessons and graded essays, but I also shared stories over communal meals.

One meaning of "sabbatical" is a leave from work to study, travel, and research. I did learn about history, culture, conflict and reconciliation in two very different countries. But "sabbatical" is also a form of the word "Sabbath," which means a time of rest. The day-to-day practice of living and serving abroad opened me up to a powerful spirit that moves through creation, through people, and through community all over the globe. Perhaps that will serve my teaching at Goshen College most of all.

Mello as Visiting Assistant Professor



By Hayley Brooks

During the 2013-14 academic year, Patrick Mello, a recent Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame, filled in during Beth Martin Birky's sabbatical. Mello taught World Literature, Expository Writing, British Literature to 1800, Critical Theory, and Shakespeare in Film. He also co-advised the Pinchpenny Press Board.

Expository writing student Kourtney Mueller ('16) appreciated Mello's caring input. "He gave honest feedback and opportunities to put his feedback to use. I learned how to improve my writing and not just learn about the mistakes I made," she said.

Mello will be moving his family to Durham, N.H., where he will teach at the University of New Hampshire.

The English department thanks Mello for his dedication, his enthusiasm for literary study, and his inspiring teaching and mentoring.

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Celebrating the Class of 2014

This year the English department graduated seven majors in English, English Writing, and TESOL, three with Secondary Education concentrations: Nikki Allison, Kate Friesen, Susanne King, Adama Millogo, Kate Stoltzfus, Steph Swartzendruber, and Annabeth Tucker. English, Writing, and TESOL minors included John Miller, Lauren Treiber, and Marta Troyer.

In March, the members of the English Senior Seminar hosted the annual Senior Supper for other students. In April, the English Department hosted a dinner for all seniors in the department at Prof. Ann Hostetler's home after the English majors completed the annual ETS Field Test in English. At the annual graduation reception, seniors displayed their e-portfolios for family and friends.



Front Row (left to right): Prof. Skip Barnett, Adama Millogo, Marta Troyer, Kate Stoltzfus, Kate Friesen, and Prof. Jessica Baldanzi. **Second Row (left to right):** Profs. Patrick Mello and Ann Hostetler, Nikki Allison, Annabeth Tucker, Stephanie Swartzendruber, and Prof. Kyle Baldanzi Schlabach.
Not Pictured: Suzanne King, John Miller, and Lauren Treiber.