

The Inkwell

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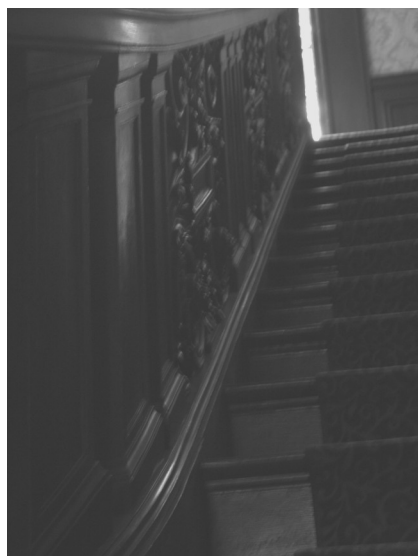


Photo Courtesy of Stefanie McHugh

Opting for Accessibility

By Amy Kaspriskie

Kirby Hall was recently renovated by Wilkes University and converted into classrooms and offices. One facet that failed to be converted or created was the construction of handicap accessibility within the hall.

Paul Kaspriskie, Wilkes University Manager of Capital Projects, explains that if handicap accessibility would be constructed to gain entrance to the first floor it would be “by means of a concrete ramp with railings meeting ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Requirements.”

The ADA states that when constructing a ramp, every 30 feet must have a six foot flat rest area. The total length of the entire ramp would then be approximately 80 feet. Installation of a ramp would cost about \$100,000 to provide access to the first

floor of the building.

Since Kirby Hall is a historical building, the historical and structural integrity of the building must be maintained if assembling an elevator on the interior, which would make the project a difficult one. As a solution to the problem, an elevator shaft would need to be constructed on the exterior of the building, which would inflate the cost.

In order for change to take place, the project would have to be proposed and approved by the Wilkes University Board of Directors. Upon the director's approval, a site would be selected, and the project set into motion by a structural engineer and architect.

The choice of elevator type would be an important part of the construction process. A hydraulic elevator's construction consists of an elevator pit which contains a hydraulic piston that pushes the car to each floor level. When the piston fully extends, it will propel the car to the top of the building and lower the car when it is retracted. The construction of the elevator includes less maintenance because it does not include pulley systems and cables. The problem that would occur with this type of elevator has to do with the land beneath Kirby.

“We wouldn't be able to use that type of elevator because of the fact that we have tried it at the Student Union Building as well as Breiseth Hall and it seems like the area between Breiseth and Kirby is rich with methane,” stated Kaspriskie.

Methane gas tends to collect in the elevator pit, so an air evacuation system would be necessary to extract the gas and change the air in the pit. The system is necessary to prevent an explosion that could be ignited by the mechanics of the elevator. An evacuation system was installed in the Breiseth Hall elevator to solve the problem, which is caused by the close proximity of coal seams beneath the building.

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Club Updates:

- Contact *The Inkwell* online at inkwell@wilkes.edu.
 - On Friday, October 5, 2007, **Sigma Tau Delta** held a marathon reading to raise awareness as part of the activities for Banned Books Week.
 - The **Comic Book Club** compiled an anthology last spring and hopes to make another one this semester. The Comic Book Club welcomes new members. Contact wilkescomicclub@gmail.com for more information.
 - **Study Abroad** in Spain for a month in Summer 2008 for \$3595. Two-week and six-week programs are also available. Month-long summer programs are offered in Rome or Florence, Italy. Programs include liberal arts classes taught in the English language. For more information, contact Dr. Paola Bianco, the Study Abroad Coordinator, at 408-4519. Watch for the Study Abroad Information Session to take place in late October.
 - The **Student Political Action Forum** plans to host events such as a documentary film series, a voter registration drive, and the third annual SPAFapalooza in the upcoming months. The Student Political Action Forum meets weekly, Tuesdays at 11:00am in Breiseth 109.
 - *The Manuscript Society* is hosting a Halloween Poetry Reading on Tuesday, October 30, 2007, at 7:00pm the Kirby Salon. All are encouraged to come in costume.
 - On Tuesday, October 3, 2007, **Wilkes in the World** was granted club status by Student Government. English major Elizabeth Clark is the club's president. The club will focus on global humanitarian efforts. The month of October is dedicated to environmentalism, and November through December will focus on World AIDS Day. Anyone interested should contact **Elizabeth Clark** (elizabeth.clark@wilkes.edu) or **Dr. Marcia Farrell** (marcia.farrell@wilkes.edu).
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Faculty Blurbs:

- Wilkes University's "Teaching of English" instructor, **Professor Thomas Jones**, is acting as an adjudicator for the *English Journal*, which is The National Council of Teachers of English publication for secondary English teachers. As an adjudicator, Jones reviews articles for the publication in his area of expertise and helps the editor decide which articles to publish. The articles are evaluated according to quality, interest, appeal, and research value.
- **Dr. Maria Hebert-Leiter** will be presenting her paper "That's Entertainment: Contemporary Hollywood Images of Louisiana," for the South in Film Panel at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia., which will be held from November 9-11, 2007.
- **Dr. Thomas Hamill** is working on a multitude of scholarly projects this semester. Most recently, he is reviewing Jeffery Hill's *Sports and the Literary Imagination: Essays in history, literature, and sport* for *The Journal of British Studies*. Hamill is also currently revising two of his essays. The first centers on the intersections of swimming and print technologies in early modern England; his other essay investigates the inter-relationships between ecology, violence, and chivalric ideology in Chaucer's *The Knight's Tale*. Hamill plans to submit both for publication in medieval and early modern studies journals. In addition to writing a review of Jeffery Hill's book, as well as revising his own work for publication, he also advised Sigma Tau Delta's Banned Books Week reading.
- **Dr. Marcia Farrell** will attend the Modernist Studies Conference in Long Beach, CA, from November 1-4, 2007, where she will participate in the "Travel Literature" seminar. Her paper is entitled "Traveling to the Interior: Laurens van der Post's Venture into Southern Africa."

Senior Spotlight: Angelina Teutonico

By Elizabeth Clark

One afternoon in the Writing Center, I conducted an interview with senior Angelina Teutonico.

What made you decide to be an English major?

When I was in high school, I took a lot of English electives. I also took some psychology and history courses, but I seemed to really gravitate towards English. I chose Wilkes University because of its location and because the English Department seemed to be very close-knit, like a family.

Who is your favorite author?

I don't really have *one* for all time, but if I'd have to pick one for right now, I'd say Chaucer. I like how the *Canterbury Tales* pertained to what entertained people in that society. The tales are still funny today; it is enjoyable to see how humor in literature is universal. It's nice to know that what people thought was funny back in the Middle Ages is still funny in the present.

What was the book that made you fall in love with literature?

Ever since I was a child, I've been interested in literature. From reading picture books at a young age, like Dr. Seuss' books, I knew I was interested in English.

What are your other passions besides English?

I am pursuing a minor in Women's Studies, so I am interested in studying the roles of women in other cultures and societies throughout the world. I am also interested in humor on TV and in movies.

What are you planning on doing after you graduate?

I'm looking into graduate school programs. From working in the Writing Center, I've discovered that I like working with students. I like to help them improve their writing skills. I am still looking around, though. I don't exactly know what I want to do yet.



Photo Courtesy of Angelina Teutonico

The Inkwell Staff

Faculty Advisors: Dr. Marcia Farrell & Dr. Maria Hebert-Leiter

Managing Editors: Melissa Bugdal & Lauren Carey

Copy Editors: Ginny Hults & Kacy Muir

Junior Copy Editors: Mary Beth Mostyn and Jessica Foster

Layout and Design Editor: Stefanie McHugh

Layout Team: Elizabeth Clark, Geoff Forman, & Jessica Mahoney

Staff Writers: Sam Chiarelli, Catherine Gallagher, Amy Kaspriskie,

Matt Kogoy, & Dana Zlotucha

Faculty Contributor: Dr. Larry Kuhar

English Major Requirements for Secondary Education Certification

Compiled by Elizabeth Clark

Major: English

Minor: Education

1. Complete ENG 101, 120, and six math credits within the first 48 credit hours.
2. Complete ED 190: This course requires permission from the Education Department, a minimum 2.8 GPA, a completed Field Experience Placement Form (which can be received from the Education Department Office), and a current Child-Abuse, Criminal Record and FBI finger-printing clearance to register. These clearances must be submitted to the Director of Field Placements in the Education Department Office. You must also apply for the Teacher Education Program while taking ED 190.
3. Complete ED 200, ED 210, ED 220, ED 315, ED 380.
4. Complete ENG 393: The Teaching of English in Secondary Schools (a special-methods course). You will need to update your Child-Abuse and Criminal Record background checks.
5. Complete ED 390 with Student Teaching.

In order to qualify for a teaching certificate, English Majors must:

1. Earn a BA in English, with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
2. Complete the Secondary Education requirements listed above.
3. Pass the Praxis I Exam (basic academic skills test) and the Praxis II Exam (testing knowledge in your field).

Poetry in Transit

By Jessica Mahoney

In July 2007, the Luzerne County Transportation Authority received a face lift to their transportation systems. Short poems with photographs mounted on placards replaced empty advertising spaces on local public busses. **Dr. Mischelle Anthony**, enjoyed the Poems of the Underground Program in London and wanted to bring the idea home.

Anthony stated, "I saw McDonald's ads and all this blank space above the seats on the bus every morning. I also heard people talking about the ads. They were paying attention to what was up there. I thought how great it would be to have people talking about poetry instead of McDonald's." With the help of Mark Golaszewski, Assistant Director of Creative Services; Christine Seitzinger, Director of Marketing/Communications; the LCTA, especially Executive Director Stan Strellish; and Jim Gattuso of Lamar Advertising, the Poetry in Transit program is underway. Each person is dedicated to the cause, volunteering his/her time, equipment, and expertise towards the project.

Every so often, Anthony will drive to work, but she is an avid rider of the 7:25am bus. When asked why take the bus if she has a car, Anthony responded, "I see people on the bus that I don't see anywhere else, and it's good to get out of the Wilkes bubble...I'm always Dr. Anthony, the teacher. On the bus, I'm just another commuter. Riding the bus reminds me of who I am in the world, how complex life is, and how vibrant and diverse our community is."

Anthony is always looking for ways to connect with the community outside of Wilkes. "I am a big believer in everyone being a part of each other, and the more positive, contemplative energy I can bring to the world, the better," she said.

Finding common ground in poetry helps bring people together. The placards consist of short texts that everyone can read quickly. Golaszewski is the artist for the placards. He created all the original designs, and most of them include his own photographs that were selected to match the tone and content of each poem.

The LCTA and Lamar Advertising have kindly offered to continue this program with Anthony. Anthony stated, "I can see someday passing this on. I hope it grows into something I could never have imagined and becomes an integral part of the artistic piece of the Wilkes-Barre community."

Currently, the placards are on display on the first floors of both the UCOM and the library. A series of 12 placards with the poetry of Wordsworth, Joyce, Dickinson, and Frost will rotate throughout the 38 buses of the LCTA.



Photo Courtesy of Mark Golaszewski

Kuhar's Corner

By Dr. Larry Kuhar

What is your favorite Kirby Hall ghost/haunting story?

Over the years we have heard stories about ghosts and paranormal activity in Kirby Hall, and it's been reported that approximately 32% of Americans believe in ghosts. Well, for those of us who spend time in Kirby in the darkened hours, we know that Kirby's ghosts are alive and well. Whether these apparitions are long-lost Kirby children or the locked-away basement ghosts rising to Dr. Starnier's office, these ghosts maintain a Kirby presence that informs our sense for why folklore matters while also moving us to consider, as Oedipa Maas perceives in *The Crying of Lot 49*, the importance of recognizing patterns in random perceptions.

How do you prepare for a new academic school year?

New academic years shape our arrivals. We restart our stories with our students and colleagues, re-engage research projects, and renew our mental "power packs." Like our English majors and minors, our work in academics requires us to prepare at the academic and administrative levels. At the academic level, my preparation involves reading for teaching, identifying new texts to teach, and reviewing related research. I'm also focused on the work of serving faculty and program needs, including assessing course offerings, registering new and transfer students, and sharing aspects of our culture and values with adjuncts, new hires, and students. The most rewarding part of preparing for a new academic year is talking with returning and new students and faculty and the sharing of our return and arrival stories.



Photo Courtesy of Stefanie McHugh

If you were stranded on a desert island, what three things would you bring?

A few years back I would have responded with the obvious: duct tape, dental floss, and a harmonica. However, times have changed. Today's three essentials include duct tape (still the most important), a model-sized V-2 rocket replica (for an imagined departure), and a cell phone/camera/computer/MP3 all-in-one gadget (this I've learned from my son and daughters).

You seem to be wise, quite wise. What are your thoughts on Led Zeppelin?

Well, let's see. My favorite Led Zeppelin album is the mostly-acoustic *Led Zeppelin III* (1970), with honorable mention to *Presence* (1976) and *Physical Graffiti* (1975). We can place John Bonham as one of the most innovative and important rock n' roll drummers of all time. Where else (except for Pete Townshend's lyrics) can we find references to *The Hobbit*? Finally, what would most (if not all) high school classes from 1971-2000 have selected as their senior class song if "Stairway To Heaven" was not recorded?

The Kirby Cannon

By Mary Beth Mostyn

During the 2006-2007 academic year, Drs. Chad Stanley and Marcia Farrell created an arena to showcase the best essays written in English courses. The contest, originally consisting of English 101 essays, grew to include four more categories: English 120, 201, 200-level, and 300-level courses. The winning essays will be collected into an anthology, *The Kirby Cannon*, which will be copied, bound, and used as a teaching tool. The selection process was extensive in order to ensure fairness. The papers were first divided in half, and Stanley and Farrell each nominated the essays they believed to be outstanding. Shannon Curtin, a 2007 graduate, donated time during the summer to make the final selections. Congratulations to the winners: Michelle Junker (101), Naseem Mian (120), Henry Hunsinger (201), Stefanie McHugh (200-level), and Sarah Doman (300-level).

The History of Kirby Hall

By Kacy Muir & Sam Chiarelli

Since Kirby Hall was first constructed, only one murder has occurred within its walls. The most significant story, however, is that the hall has been home to more influential families than any other residence on South River Street.

History plays an important role in a home that is 134 years old. Many stories about Kirby Hall have started with, "It was a dark and rainy night," but after speaking with Wilkes University historian Dr. Cox, some stories retain their intrigue.

Kirby is an old house, and the noise of an old house inspires stories. As Dr. Cox insists, "with open chimneys, the wind plays them like organ pipes," and that noise, eerie as it might seem, is just the house breathing.

Though Kirby Hall was first designed in 1873 by architect Frederick Clarke Withers for the Thurlow family. Stephen Thurlow was a coal dealer by trade, originally from Massachusetts. Upon coming to Wilkes-Barre, his family moved into the mansion that would become a transitional home for various residents. By 1880, Frank Lee bought the home, but once again, only stayed a short time. Together, the Thurlows and the Lees resided in the mansion for a total of thirteen years.

In 1886, Rueben Flick, Sr. bought the mansion and lived there for nineteen years until it was sold to F.M. Kirby in 1905. When the Kirby family came along, the house finally became a permanent residence; and from 1905 until 1940, the mansion belonged to the Kirby family.

Since the Kirbys' time, many rumors have surfaced. Those who have had the pleasure of being in office 205 may have wondered why metal bars are located outside the window. Climbing from the roof into the window would be easy. During the time from 1873 up until the Kirby family moved in, Irish and Welsh servants lived within those quarters. The window bars were either meant to stop burglars or romantic rendezvous between the servants.

Through the 66 years during which Wilkes has owned Kirby Hall, the stories of the past remain.



Photo Courtesy of Melissa Bugdal

To make contributions to *The Inkwell*, please contact inkwell@wilkes.edu for details. To join *The Inkwell* staff, contact Dr. Maria Hebert-Leiter (maria.hebert-leiter@wilkes.edu) or Dr. Marcia Farrell (marcia.farrell@wilkes.edu).

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The proper elevator would be a standard cable elevator or a cable and hydraulic combination to subset the cost of the methane evacuation system.

The elevator's exterior, as well as the car itself, would have to be modified to meet the historical authenticity of the building. A decision would need to be made on the cosmetics of the interior walls being laminate, stainless steel, or wood.

As for the outward appearance of the extension, Kaspriskie explains, "Kirby Hall, I believe, is covered with limestone, and Wilkes might opt to try and match that the best they can, which would be very costly."

Considering the limitations and obstacles, the cost of making Kirby Hall completely handicap accessible would be at a cost in excess of \$1,000,000.

Writing Center Hours Fall 2007

Monday: 8:00am-10:00am, 11:00am-6:00pm
 Tuesday: 9:00am-6:00pm
 Wednesday: 8:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-6:00pm
 Thursday: 9:00am-6:00pm
 Friday: 8:00am-9:00am, 11:00am-6:00pm

Plan for your consultation to last approximately an hour, but please inform the Peer Consultant you are working with if your project will take longer to discuss.

Remember to bring a hard copy of your project with you to the session.

To make an appointment call 408-2753, or stop by Breiseth 018.

English Faculty Office Phone Numbers

Debra Archavage (Admin. Assistant)	Kirby 202	408-4530	debra.archavage@wilkes.edu
Mischelle Anthony	Kirby 302	408-4529	thomas.hamill@wilkes.edu
Marcia Farrell	Kirby 301	408-4528	marcia.farrell@wilkes.edu
Benjamin Fiester	Bedford 32	408-4531	benjamin.fiester@wilkes.edu
Jack Grier	Kirby 309	408-4538	jbartholomay.grier@wilkes.edu
Thomas Hamill	Kirby 303	408-4539	mischelle.anthony@wilkes.edu
Patricia Heaman	Kirby 204	408-4167	patricia.heaman@wilkes.edu
Robert Heaman	Kirby 309	408-3433	robert.heaman@wilkes.edu
Maria Hebert-Leiter	Kirby 206	408-4549	maria.hebertleiter@wilkes.edu
Thomas Jones	(Kirby Mailbox only)		thomas.jones@wilkes.edu
Walter Karpinich	Bedford 33	408-4524	walter.karpinich@wilkes.edu
Kathleen Kemmerer	Kirby 206	408-4548	kathleen.kemmerer@wilkes.edu
Bernie Kovacs	Kirby 205	408-4525	bernard.kovacs@wilkes.edu
Lawrence Kuhar (Division Chair)	Kirby 204	408-4172	lawrence.kuhar@wilkes.edu
Mary Lampman	Kirby 201	408-4532	mary.lampman@wilkes.edu
Marcie Riebe	Passan 211	408-4106	marcie.riebe@wilkes.edu
Chad Stanley	Kirby 209	408-4514	chad.stanley@wilkes.edu
Janet Starner	Kirby 308	408-4536	jill.yurko1@wilkes.edu
John Wills	Kirby 204	408-4535 *	john.wills@wilkes.edu
Jill Yurko	Kirby 106	408-4517	janet.starner@wilkes.edu

* Email Preferred; all staff is available through email.

Writers at Work

By Matt Kogoy

Dr. Larry Kuhar is planning his third Annual **Writers at Work** seminar. At press time, Kuhar was unable to release specific information pertaining to the program. The event will include the opportunity for students to hear career stories from professionals in various fields, to learn about professional communication practice, and to ask questions about an array of career-related topics such as leadership, culture, organization, and diversity. The goal of the Writers at Work seminar is to provide information for those on the growing writing track as well as any others who will encounter writing in the workplace. More information will appear in future issues.

Humanities Division Picnic

On Monday, October 1, 2007, the Humanities Division held their Fall Picnic on the Kirby Lawn.



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All Picnic Photos Courtesy Dr. Marcia Farrell

Faculty Crossword Puzzle

By Lauren Carey

Clues correspond with the **last name** of a member of the Wilkes English Department.

Down

1. The New International Student Advisor
2. Hidden Office
3. The First Folio
4. 200 Florida Election Focus
5. Severed Foot
6. Compost

Across

1. Drama Queen
2. Co-POCO
3. Morgan
4. Belated (and Apologetic)
5. He Who Paddles

