

Identity

By Brian Harrell

Recently in Practicum, we were talking about conferences and how they should be done. Dr. Bean asked if anyone had any ideas about what may work well in the student conference. I immediately replied, "I plan on being prepared. I want my students to turn in the draft prior to the conference so I can read it, put notes on it, and be able to direct the conference as it needs to go." Dr. Bean replied, "Wow, that is very Svehlian of you!"



I paused for a moment and smiled. I am Svehlian. After all, he did win the Outstanding Teacher Award for 2011 for "Exemplary University Service." Then I asked myself: What does it mean to be "Svehlian?"

It means more than having well-prepared conferences. It means applying the works of Plato, Aristotle, and Isocrates. It means taking the 400 BCE term *Kairos* and understanding what it means in the composition classroom in 2012. It is reading the expressivists, the cognativists, the critical pedagogues, and many others, and putting them into conversation with each other to work inside the classroom. It means being a pragmatist and reading Dewey, James, and West and putting their words to life through pedagogy. It means wanting your students to succeed outside the university, in publication, conferences, and life.

Being Svehlian is a hybridity of many theories coming together into one classroom. And if that doesn't work, try another. After all, what works for one classroom, may not work for another.

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March Deadlines

Special Sessions: 2012 MMLA Convention – March 9th
<http://www.luc.edu/mmla/callforpapers.html>

Special Session proposals are now being accepted for the 54th annual MMLA Convention held in Cincinnati, Nov. 8-11. To submit a Special Session proposal for the informal theme of DEBT, please complete the Special Session Proposal Form found on their website by the above date and email it to the M/MLA office at mmla@luc.edu. The Special Session proposals will be reviewed and posted in April.

Fan Phenomena: Batman – March 12th
<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/45151>

This new series, *Fan Phenomena*, is prompted by a growing appetite for books that tap into the fascination we have with what constitutes an iconic or cultish phenomenon and how a particular person, TV show or film character/film infiltrates their way into the public consciousness. Editors are seeking abstracts of no more than 300 words accompanied by an academic bio and contact information by the above date.

“Modernism and the Circus” Panel: March 20th
<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/45175>

In keeping with the MSA 14 theme of Modernism and Spectacle, this is a CFP for a panel on the significance of the circus to modernism. The circus has become almost synonymous with empty spectacle, disorganized activity, sensational distortions of human and animal form and popular amusement. At the same time the transport and organization required for moving a circus from town to town also seems to exemplify modernity’s capacities for rationalization and its penetration of provincial regionalisms. Detailed proposals are sought to discuss to what end the circus has been referenced across modernist art.

Critical Insights: Kurt Vonnegut – March 30th
<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/44935>

This volume will appear as part of the "Critical Insights" series, published by Salem Press (a division of EBSCO). The series is intended for use by high school and undergraduate students, providing them with a comprehensive introduction to the work of a single author that they are likely to encounter, discuss, and study in their classrooms. *Critical Insights: Kurt Vonnegut* will help students build a foundation for studying Vonnegut’s writings in greater depth by introducing them to key texts, concepts, contexts, critical approaches, and critical vocabulary found in the scholarship on Vonnegut’s life and work. Please send proposals of 250–300 words along with a brief CV listing previous publications.



“Success is
not final,
failure is not
fatal: it is the
courage to
continue
that counts.”

- Winston
Churchill



Spotlight: Courtney Turner

By Marlia Fontaine-Weisse

This month, *Academic Pursuits* turns its spotlight on Courtney Turner, MA in Composition student. We thought it a good idea to have Courtney provide a part-time perspective of obtaining a Master’s degree in English. Read on to see why she decided to continue her education and how she juggles classes with her full-time job.

Q. What is your current position, and what are your primary responsibilities?

SAGES:

A student organization that focuses on helping graduate students of all tracks

(Composition, Fine Arts, and Literature) in the English field develop

professionally during their time at The University of Akron,

by providing members with resources to help them publish, present, and prepare.

SAGES also strives to promote unity among graduate students of the three tracks by creating events and providing resources that will benefit scholars regardless of their field.

Ask an officer
how to
**Become a
Member**
and
JOIN TODAY!

I am currently a caseworker for Oriana House, Inc, Electronic Monitoring Program. My job duties involve providing case management for adults and juveniles in the penal system. I mostly meet with people on the daily basis, and maintain an open dialogue with the referring court to ensure compliance with our program rules. On rare occasion, I install monitoring equipment, testify in court, prepare paperwork for audits and test equipment.

Q. Why did you decide to get a Master's in English?

My undergraduate degree is in English and I enjoy both writing and reading. The long is, I thought it could help me in my current job duties, as a majority of my communication with courts, probation, etc. is done in written form. It was also my hope that I could engage in more creative work; whether in my current position or with something new.

Q. How will the degree help you in your current position?

In my current position, it will increase marketability. It will help me streamline my correspondences with the court and become more efficient.

Q. Why did you opt to go part-time instead of full-time?

The decision to go part-time instead of full-time was based on my work schedule and need to be accessible to the court and my clients during the day. I work long hours on most days, and I did not feel I would have been able to dedicate the time I desired to my studies or my job. I generally take two classes a semester, allowing myself time to complete all tasks without getting burned out.

Q. From beginning to end, how long will your Master's take you to complete?

I started in Fall 2010 and will be finished in Spring 2013, so 2 1/2 years basically. No summer classes as of yet.

Q. What advice would you give someone who's unsure whether s/he should go part-time or full-time?

I would suggest they evaluate their schedule and how furthering their education will affect other aspects of their lives. Because the classes require a high level of dedication and focus, any person considering pursuing a Master's degree should be aware of how much they can handle.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to say?

Nope, not really. Thanks for the opportunity to express myself and how my academic career and professional career fit together. And also, to any perspective student, don't quit on your dreams or aspirations just because you cannot commit to going to school full-time.

Reminder: SAGES Officer Elections

Officer elections are coming up in April, and we need a few good people to fill the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary positions for the next academic year. Even if you have no intention of running, feel free to nominate any full-time student in good academic standing with The University who you feel would represent one of the above positions well. Look for more detailed information to be sent out in the near future.

Events

The BIG BIG MESS READING SERIES

Monday, March 5th, Wednesday, March 14th, and Friday, March 30th, at Annabell's Bar & Lounge from 6p-9p

The BIG BIG MESS is a national reading series based in Akron, Ohio, that brings together national and local writers with a focus on work that is new, awesome, and a bit of a mess. This month offers three chances to experience the awesomeness, and we double-dog dare you to attend all three.

Professional Development Workshop: Writing a Master's Thesis

Wednesday, March 21st, Room 362 at 4p

Considering writing a Master's thesis, but not sure what it entails? Attend this workshop with special guest Dr. Hilary Nunn to discover all you'll need to know!

Biddinger/Wasserman Reading and Discussion

Saturday, March 31st, The Learned Book Owl from 1p-4p

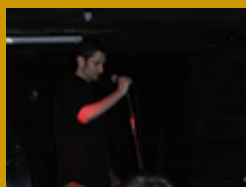
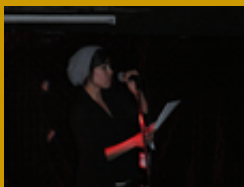
Come join Mary Biddinger, author of *Saint Monica*, and Eric Wasserman, author of *Celluloid Strangers*, in Hudson as they read their work and sign autographs. Books are available for purchase on-sight.

Have Something to Say?

We value student contributions and look forward to your well-written, appropriately-themed articles. To learn more about how to submit or how to become a committee member, email us at:

ua_academic_pursuits@yahoo.com

February Highlights



**Big Big Mess
Visiting Poets at
Annabell's Bar &
Lounge in
Highland Square**