



News from English

Volume 2, Issue 1

March 2009

English Alumnae News: Hartzel Readers and Writers Report In

A long tradition of Cedar Crest English majors have walked Hartzel Hall's creaky floors: these alumnae let us know what they've been up to since their days at the college.

After thirty years as the owner and manager of *The Beachcomer* newspaper in Southern Ocean County, NJ, **Margaret Thomas** (Class of 1954) sold the paper in 1989 to concentrate on writing and editing. She has since published four books, including *Great Storms of the Jersey Shore* (with Larry Savadove and Bill Bradley; Down the Shore Publishing, 2004, www.down-the-shore.com/poochpage.html).

Joan Campion (1961) reports that the English program's beloved Hartzel Hall was once spelled "Hartzell" Hall, and before that it was called the Hillside House. Joan has written a series of books, most recently a travel memoir about her first trip abroad some 30 years ago, *Jerusalem Journal: Adventures in a Desert Landscape* (Publish American Inc., 2008, www.authortree.com/joancampion). She maintains a blog at bethblog.blogspot.com.

Currently a professor of English at Bergen Community College in New Jersey, **Bonnie MacDougall** (1969) went on to complete both her MA and her PhD in English at Columbia University. Bonnie credits Cedar Crest's Dr. Alison G. Sulloway for inspiring her graduate study and for teaching



Joan Campion, author of *Jerusalem Journal*
(Photo by Dana Grubb)

her to revise writing as if every word was "like a brick laid at the foundation of a building." Now teaching her own ESL, writing, and literature classes, Bonnie reflects before entering her "Myth

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World Literature Courses Explore Diverse Traditions and Cultures

Students in this semester's "Voices of Africa" class encounter a dynamic literature seldom experienced by readers in the U.S., as writers from Senegal, Nigeria and other African nations dramatize life in lands that remain largely unknown to us despite the reach of today's media and communications.



Voices of Africa joins the previously offered "Fantastic Fictions" and precedes planned

offerings in World Literature that explore Japan's national identity crisis after World War II; compare epic poetry from various cultures; and delve into Latin American Magic Realism. A two-part survey sequence takes a broader approach, covering major works from the beginning of written literature to the present. Assistant Professor Henry Marchand notes that the new courses "further strengthen the English program's greatest contribution to Cedar Crest's liberal arts identity: the recognition that literature lies at the heart of understanding our world and the common humanity of its people."

Alumnae News (cont'd)

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and Literature” class, “Truly, I don’t think it gets any better.”

Dr. MacDougall’s dissertation examined the metamorphoses of Pygmalion, and she has produced a translation of poetry, *City of Memories* (trans. with Kalyan Ray; intro. by Allen Ginsberg; Viking, 1991, www.goodreads.com/book/show/1745440.City_of_Memories_Selected_Poems). Her current project is a website designed for college writing instructors.

Elaine Volchko Quayle (1970) has created and edited a new book, *Essential Safety Policies*, in her job as a human resources editor at Business and Legal Reports, Inc. in Old Saybrook, CT. She has also edited the supplemental book *Job Descriptions Encyclopedia* and a special

report on political activity in the workplace for the past election year. Elaine is the publicity chairperson for the Shoreline Connecticut Branch of the American Association of University Women and works on pay equity issues for young women.

Upon earning an MFA in creative writing at Bowling Green State University, **Bim Angst** (1978) continued work as a journalist and began teaching writing at the college level. The recipient of both an 1982 NEA Creative Writing Fellowship and a 1987 fellowship to Yaddo, Bim went from studying English under Cedar Crest professors John Herrmann, John Flautz, and Bev Tisdale to teaching undergraduate writing throughout the country. She has three children: Addie Manis, a film and video writer and producer; Nellie Manis, an intern at The International Court of Justice at The Hague; and Charlie Manis, an award-winning multi-genre writer majoring in English at

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Jennifer Gilmore

Book Club Talks with *Golden Country*'s Jennifer Gilmore

The Cedar Crest College Book Club gathered in Alumnae Hall on January 28 to discuss Jennifer Gilmore’s novel, *Golden Country*. Club members took part in a conference call with the author herself, sharing their thoughts and questions about the novel and its historical context – the experiences of European Jewish immigrants to the northeastern U.S. in the early-mid 20th century – and Ms. Gilmore graciously provided answers and her own insights. The club also listened to an interview with Ms. Gilmore conducted by Assistant Professor of English Henry Marchand in Fall, 2007. (The interview can be heard online by visiting the English Program’s “Interviews” page at

www.cedarcrest.edu).

Chosen for discussion at the next club meeting (Thursday, March 19 at 6:30PM in Hartzel Hall) was Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s award-winning novel, *Half of a Yellow Sun*. The club was also delighted to learn of an invitation from author Adriana Trigiani to attend “the world’s largest book club” meeting in New York City in April.

The Book Club is open to college alumnae, students, faculty and staff. Please direct questions to Diane Gehringer in Alumnae Affairs at diane@cedarcrest.edu or Susan Ritter '02 at smritter02@verizon.net.



Mark Twain, American literary giant and quote machine.

Preterite “Quote Totes” Feature Mark Twain & New Club Logo

The college literary club recently conducted a sale of “quote totes” as part of its busy Spring schedule. Diverging from past practice, in which t-shirts emblazoned with a literature-related quote were sold to raise funds for club activities, Preterite members opted for an attractive tote bag instead; the quote selected is attributed to Mark Twain: “You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.” Accompanying the quote is Preterite’s brand new logo, designed by Casey McDonough, Assistant Professor of Art.

The logo will also appear in this year’s edition of *In Other Words*, the college literary magazine. The magazine will appear in late April, and will be available at

the annual Writing Reception in Tompkins College Center on Sunday, May 3. The reception will honor winners of the 2008-2009 Creative Writing and College Writing Awards, and will also feature the induction of new members into the English Honor Society.

A new Preterite event will be held in mid-April, as writers whose work will appear in the literary magazine are featured in a pre-publication reading, open to all in the TCC. Other activities this Spring include a literary-themed basket raffle and the ever-popular Movie Night at Hartzel Hall, scheduled for March 27.

Two Authors to Read on Campus this Spring

Bill Strickland, author of the memoir *Ten Points* and an editor at *Bicycling* magazine, will read from his work in the 1867 Room at Tompkins College Center on Tuesday, March 17 at 7PM. A book signing will follow.

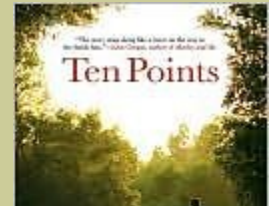
Ten Points has been described by author John Grogan (*Marley and Me*) as a powerful account of Strickland's "quest to win bicycle racing points [and] to outrun the buried demons of child abuse before they consume him and those who love him."

Strickland's writing has also been praised by Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong for its true-to-life depiction of the cycling experience. The author has appeared in publications including *Men's Health*, *Men's Journal* and *Parenting* and on television programs including CBS' *The Early Show* and ABC's *Good Morning America*.

Amra Brooks, author of a novella, *California*, and contributor to *Artforum*, *LA Weekly* and *Index* magazine, will read from her work in the Tompkins College Center at 7PM on Monday, April 27. A book signing will follow.

Born and raised in California, Brooks taught creative writing at the University of California, Santa Cruz and at UC San Diego. She currently lives in Pennsylvania and teaches writing at Muhlenberg College in Allentown.

These events are free and open to the public. They are sponsored by the Humanities Department and the Cultural Programs Committee of Cedar Crest College.



Alumnae News (cont'd)

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Penn State, College Park. Bim continues to write and now teaches at Penn State, Schuylkill Campus.

Nancy Lynch (1980) recently presented her paper, "The Womb Symbolism in Genesis 1-6," at a 2008 regional meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature. Nancy's feminist critique examines the character of the "womb" in the opening chapters of the Hebrew Bible.

Joanne Pollitt Carty (1982) teaches 8th-grade language arts in northeastern Iowa and traces her teaching of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to Dr. Beverly Tisdale's Cedar Crest Shakespeare class. Joanne's husband is a Rutgers English-degree graduate and their oldest child just completed an English degree from Loras College in Dubuque—reading literature must run in the blood.

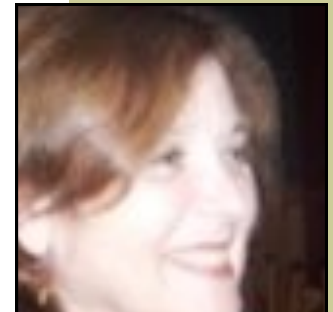
After several years teaching 6th- and 9th-grade English, **Melissa Hammond** (1999) now teaches special-education students. Melissa recently completed a master's degree through the College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

Whitney Curtis (2003) has published *Darkland* (Outskirts Press, 2008), a fantasy novel that chronicles warrior-woman Shanna's travels through a magical barrier separating the human race from its enemies.

Crediting Cedar Crest College for making possible where she is today, **Kristie Bush** (2007) works as the production coordinator for HarperCollins Publishers's children and teen titles. Kristie invites current English majors to check out HarperCollins' internship and career opportunities at: www.harpercollinscareers.com/careers/index.html.

A happy new mother, **Jennifer Kumetz** (2008) sends word of future Cedar Crest graduate Evanaya Lanai (2030), who arrived this past October. Jennifer plans on beginning graduate studies at Kutztown University next fall.

What have you been up to since last descending Hartzel's marbled steps? Let the English program know at: english@cedarcrest.edu.



Dr. Bonnie MacDougall (1969), Professor of English at Bergen Community College

"Truly, I don't think it gets any better."

—Bonnie MacDougall on teaching her "Myth and Literature" class.

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academic/hum/english.shtm](http://www2.cedarcrest.edu/academic/hum/english.shtm)

The Cedar Crest English major offers students a solid fundamental background in American, British, and World literature; allows students to develop strengths in creative, scholarly, and professional writing; and invites students to explore more specialized areas such as linguistics and critical theory. The major is designed to prepare students for graduate study and for careers in teaching, publishing, business, government, journalism, advertising, and other language-related fields. More generally, the discipline of English enables students better to understand and respond to their world through the spoken and written word, both within the academic setting and beyond.

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Call for News and Notes

Cedar Crest English graduates, let us know what you're doing! In the next issue of *News from English*, we'll share information you've provided along with that of other English alumnae.

Send your information to english@cedarcrest.edu.

“A room without books is like a body without a soul.”

Cicero

Roman orator and statesman (106-43 BCE)