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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR: ALAN MITNICK

Happy Spring semester, everyone!

My paycheck increases are slower than a turtle on second-hand crutches; every office I've had is too hot in the winter and too cold in the summer...Academic Council meetings remain only slightly less lengthy than the Oscars and even less entertaining-I had come to think of change at PCCC as something akin to a wonderful story told to young faculty at bedtime.

However, look at us now! Nancy and the basic skills/developmental faculty have made wonderful changes, as you will read in her note to everyone below. On the college-level side, we will also bid a not-so-fond adieu to holistics, for 101 and 102, this comes in the fall 2011 semester. We have taken a long and deeper look at EN 101 and 102 and are making thoughtful alterations in text and direction. Faculty have created new courses, are becoming more varied in what they teach and bring new ideas and approaches to our meetings-I have always enjoyed my years in the department but am especially excited by the well-wrought changes brought about by a team of which I daily become prouder. Thank you all for your commitment, energy and increasing ability not only to adjust to the changes made to the department but also to make "change" the tenor of our academic year.



Letter from Director Nancy Velazquez-Torres

Hola Amigos,

It is great to start the semester with Exciting News!

We began the semester piloting an accelerated project for 004 students in Wanaque and we are pleased to report that 9 out of the 12 students (75%) passed to EN 101. As a result, we are planning on using this model at the other campuses and integrating more accelerated options into our program.

The learning communities are also up to a great start. This semester we have integrated Acting into our 001 Learning Community and kept Journalism for 004 and we are expecting extraordinary results. That is not all. We are piloting a portfolio assessment process that will replace holistics. Isn't that awesome?

We are also evaluating resources available to make major changes at the lab in order to provide more small group and individualized assistance based on students' needs and monitor student progress. Moreover, our First Developmental Education Conference is looking better by the minute. The committee even has a Facebook page dedicated to it. I told you we had exciting news!

None of this would be possible without the collaboration and participation of our faculty and staff. I appreciate so much the enormous amount of time, work and energy our developmental skills committee, the level leaders, the instructors, the lab assistant and the tutors have put into all of these projects. Gracias.

Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.

Henry Ford



PCH 2010-Mark Hillrignhouse

EVENTS at PCCC and Beyond!

College Writing Committee presents the *Writing Across the Curriculum Spring Roundtable*- PCCC's Paterson Room, March 23rd at 3:30pm.

Distinguished Lecture Series presents Dave Maiullo's *Physics for Everybody* -PCCC's Theater, April 21st at 2:00pm.

The International Reading Associations' annual conference is being held this year May 8th-11th in Orlando, Florida. Conference information may be found at www.reading.org

Nina-Louise Alsbrook-Jackson, Advisor - April 29, Performance Arts Club Talent Showcase (Faculty is encouraged to participate – contact Sharonda Shiver, Club President at sharondashiver@aol.com)

Passaic County Community College Developmental English Conference

Hamilton Hall on October 7, 2011 from 8:30-3:00. Keynote speaker from 9:30-10:30 as well as 3 breakout sessions. Breakfast and lunch will be provided! We are inviting local community colleges to attend. For more information, please contact Pamela Cavanaugh at PCAVANAUGH@PCCC.EDU

New Jersey Communication Association
Communication and 21st Century Technologies
15th Annual Conference
Saturday, March 19th, 2011
Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Road,
Paramus, NJ 07652
<http://njca.rutgers.edu> or 201-612-5232 for further
information

Faculty READS!

Recommendations

Kelly Bender-“*Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen* by Christopher McDougall. It’s a wonderful, well-told story, as the book is written by a writer...not a runner.”

Richard Marranta-“Herman Hesse's *Siddhartha*. It is a book that deals with the panorama of life. It is about the search for wisdom and truth. It shows the value and limitations of both knowledge and experience -- in other words, both have their place.”

Diana Blauvelt-“While being delayed in Orlando waiting for a flight back to New Jersey [you can imagine the horror] I picked up *The Best American Nonrequired Reading* featuring an introduction by David Sedaris. The really neat thing about this anthology is its contents are chosen by high school students from the San Francisco Bay Area. Its different sections offer a quick fix of literature on a tight time schedule, and besides, where else can one read the best of "Missed Encounters from Craig's List" with illustrations?

Mark A. Tambone- “I re-read *A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway over the summer. This book reminds me to write and live everyday like my soul depends on it- because it does!” Writers-read *On Writing* by Stephen King- you will never look at a blank page the same way again.

Elizabeth Nesius-*The Lunar Baedeker* by Mina Loy, *Book of My Nights* by Li-Young Lee, and *Dream Work* by Mary Oliver.

English Department Welcomes: Meghan Austin—Instructor, M.F.A.



DEPARTMENT MEMBERS: Nina Alsbrook-Jackson, Meghan Austin, Linda Bakian, Kelly Bender, Diana Blauvelt, David Bolger, Pamela Cavanagh, Alexandra Della Fera, Mark Hillringhouse, Glenn Klopfenstein, Thomas Lancaster, Richard Marranta, Alan Mitnick, Andy Pawelczack, Caffie Risher, Mark A. Tambone, Nancy Velazquez-Torres, R.G. Rader, Christine Redman-Waldeyer

Faculty and Adjunct *Presentations ♦ Publications ♦ Readings*

Mark Hillringhouse's photography exhibit "Paterson in Color and Black & White" is scheduled for the Broadway Gallery for April/May. The exhibit is a retrospective of twenty years of his urban, industrial landscape and street photography in different formats. His images explore the haunting beauty of an industrial past, the city's mills and factories, against the backdrop of the city's vibrant street life as juxtaposed against the timeless forces of the Passaic River, the Great Falls, and Garret Mountain. Hillringhouse's exhibit will move on to William Paterson University for an exhibition there in June. His book, "Between Frames" a collection of poetry and photography, is due out this spring from Serving House Books. The poem "Ice Cream" is from the collection. Professor Hillringhouse will be leading a poetry workshop for teachers at Mahwah High School for the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation this spring starting in March that will run for six weeks. The purpose of this workshop is to help high school teachers approach poetry through oral interpretation.

Richard Marranta

1. Dragon Cafe -- a collection of essays on creativity, spirituality, nature and much more -- is available as an online book at Bangkok Books. 1b. New York Interviews (most likely title) -- is a collection of interviews of Jane Goodall, Allen Ginsberg, Huston Smith, E. L. Doctorow, Galway Kinnell, Ameena Meer and others -- is an online book at Bangkok Books.
2. Dragon Cafe -- my novel that takes place in Southeast Asia -- is in the negotiation process at a book publisher for publication in regular book form.
3. I'm the president of NJ Fulbright Association.
4. I'm giving a talk on the Transcendentalists (our panel is funded by NEH) at the Core Texts Conference, April 14-17, at Yale University.
5. My essay, Gatsby Sutra, will be in the next issue of ASEBL, a journal of ethics and literature from St. Francis College in Philadelphia

Diana C. Blauvelt--The annual NJALL/NJADE Conference will be held April 7th-8th.

Diana will be presenting *Crossing the Pond: Using Contemporary British Literature to engage the American Developmental Student*. This presentation is based on lessons developed while using Nick Hornby's *About a Boy*. For more information about the conference please visit www.njall.org.

Kelly Bender, will be presenting at the *League of Innovations* conference in San Diego, California on "Curriculum and Syllabus Revision: Process and Practice" on February 26, 2011.

Mary Vallo's poem "Googling You" will be in the 2011 Paterson Literary Review. Mary Vallo is an adjunct professor.

Nina-Louise Alsbrook, February, *The Civil War: A Price for a Legacy* (initially Spoken Word), Bloomfield College; Currently published via Bloomfield College's website at:http://www.bloomfield.edu/student_life/eof/default.aspx. Also, February 24, Guest Speaker – Black History Month Closing Ceremony

Caffie Risher is presenting the following workshop on Preparing to Return to College (Adults) at the North Jersey District Missionary Baptist Association on Monday, February 21st from 6:30-7:30 pm. Professor Risher is also being recognized for her contribution to the Student Development Committee at the 4th Annual Scholarship Award Breakfast hosted by the Passaic County Community College Foundation on Thursday, March 10th, 2011 from 9:00am-10:30am.

Josh Medsker, Adjunct Faculty, had a memoir published in the literary magazine, We'll Never Have Paris, in Dec. 2010. (neverhaveparis.blogspot.com) Josh also edited an anthology of memoir writing from former prisoners in the education dept. of The Fortune Society, a group in NYC that helps rehabilitate people who've been through the criminal justice system. The memoirs are being published in conjunction with Memoir (and), a SF Bay-based literary magazine. Josh has created a Facebook page for the upcoming Developmental English Conference (search PCCC developmental conference), and is in the process of writing the content for the Developmental English webpage, which can be accessed through the college portal.

RAW

Faculty ♦ Adjunct Poetry

Ice Cream

This is a poem that has nothing to do with ice cream
It is a poem about how refrigerators will take over the world
It is a poem about how girls come apart in the wind
How old songs can be sung almost anywhere
How everyone loves cold beer and hot dogs
It is a poem about fidgeting, about staring over a cliff
And hearing the needle-like voice of your mother whirl in your ear
It is a poem about how they say the dead love their cats
That you can tell that you are at the end of the hall by smell alone

Mark Hillringhouse

RIPPERS-RUTS HUT, N.J



Mark Hillringhouse

Fading

Sometimes the day bleeds and blurs,
Fades pale into the vibrancy of what still needs to be done.
Sometimes it becomes liquid
Washing into the things that have yet to come
Waves, rushing me into the next moment,
Currents, dragging me from moments past
Fading.

Nina-Louise Alsbrook-Jackson

On Everything Hinges

On everything hinges my hopes, my dreams
Your life and the possibility of what could be...
The memory of what was.
In secret, I hold my hopes for you, your triumphs
The cries I'll calm
Skinned knees I'll kiss.
Silently, behind the sunshine of smiles, I pray your safety...
Quietly ignoring internal whispers about a previous journey taken,
All while trying not to forget that trip.
Now,
On you, everything hinges
My future shaded by the by brightness that is yours,
Hanging on all you've yet to become
My earthly world, and everything in it.

Nina-Louise Alsbrook-Jackson

SILK CITY

**Look for PCCC'S student literary journal of
poetry, prose and digital photography later this spring!**

Please send future submissions addressed to:

**M. Hillringhouse and M. Tambone at
silkcitey@pccc.edu.**

Writing Temple

We sit in a room on a Saturday
morning, an oak forest rendered
into tables, chairs, blonde columns.
It's all very Greek inside. Molly
reads four poets: Praxilla, Lomar,
Nemerov and Dickinson. Soon
we'll write our own. In back is a
statue of Alexander the Great with
lion mane hair and faraway eyes,
and to the right a group of cheery
peasants at a wedding, food spilling
from plates. Across the street I spy
a man with a cap, his back to me,
waiting for his Dentist, a long
name...

I look at paintings of the Hudson
River, a glimpse of spirit-suffused
nature where my sister has a farm
house: crystalline sunsets piercing
the gloom, cows grazing amidst
leftover empire, colors hinting at
glory
& tempest, a shepherd too. Cole,
Church
and the others -- not as famous as
their

Impressionist cousins. Yet these
squares
of luminous brushstrokes mirror
the abode where soul finds itself in
leafy hues and in lightning. The
message here: stranger than nature,
what can only be spoken by art.

Richard Marranta

--from Molly Peacock's workshop

ANNOUNCEMENTS

R.G. Rader is now the English Department's Associate Chair.

Mark A. Tambone has been accepted into the M.F.A. program for Creative and Professional Writers at William Paterson University.

Congratulations to Kelly Bender and Christine Redman-Waldeyer for receiving tenure!

Students interested in the Public Speaking/Debate Team, contact Professor Brian C. Lorio, Esq. at bcloerio@gmail.com.

LOVERS AND OTHER STRANGERS

The PCCC Theater Program's 2011 SPRING PRODUCTION
Performances: April 12, 13, 14, 15
7:30 pm College Theater, Paterson Campus
Tickets \$5.00, Call 973-684-6413 after March 1 for reservations
Tickets also sold at the door

Prof. Alexandra Della Fera will be bringing Honors Program students to see the exhibit "Expressionists of New York City" at the Museum of Modern Art followed by lunch at Le Pain Quotidien in April. It will be a fun and enlightening experience for all who join.

EN 004 News – Thanks to the hard work of the Developmental Studies Committee, EN 004 has made some MAJOR changes to its curriculum; ridding the course of excessive time given for the midterm and final exams, and holistic scoring of the final exams. Very exciting!

Learning Communities are Expanding! The Developmental Studies Department successfully introduced Learning Communities-Fall, 2010 semester. This spring, the Learning Communities expanded to include EN 001 & RD 001 paired with both College Experience and Acting I, and EN 004 & RD 004 are now paired with Journalism. The Learning Communities look to expand and pair with other college level courses. We would like to hear from any other departments that would be willing to pair a course with either level. Please contact Nancy Velazquez-Torres or Kelly Bender.



Fabian Theater
Photo by Mark Hillringhouse

For more information about the English Department's full-time faculty, please visit our new English Department Webpage!

<http://www.pccc.edu/prospective/academics/academic-departments/english-department/faculty>

Chair

Alan Mitnick

Associate Chair

R.G. Rader

Developmental Skills Director

Nancy Velazquez-Torres

Administrative Assistant

Lorraine Hicks

Work Study

Sultan Koxak

Created by

Mark A. Tambone