This fall, the English Department has welcomed a new face! Matt Pitt has been appointed to the Writer in Residence position here on the hilltop, and he couldn’t be more thrilled. Pitt is originally from St. Louis, so he was aware of Illinois College and Jacksonville’s location. While Pitt did grow up in the Midwest, he spent his college years on the East Coast at Hampshire College in Massachusetts studying theatre and writing. After finishing his undergrad work, he began working on his MFA at NYU. After completing his masters degree, Pitt began teaching while working on his own stories. Before coming to IC, he taught at several other universities throughout the country. However last spring, he decided to return to his Midwest roots and apply for the Writer in Residence position within the English Department. Pitt stated that what appealed to him about our campus was the commitment to service that IC displays. Though he is spending much of his time in the classroom, Matt is in the process of finishing a piece of his own. He has been working on a novel that follows (cont’d on p.2)

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

—Mark Twain

Meet Matt Pitt

The Price of Loyalty

Illinois College alum Adam Kershaw published his first novel The Price of Loyalty, this past year. The novel is loosely based on Kershaw’s time in his former literary society here on the hilltop. The paper was originally his MA thesis at UIS. Kershaw is currently teaching at Williamsville High School, and will begin teaching courses at Benedictine University this Spring. If you would like to hear more about Kershaw’s novel, feel free to join us at the English Department Open House on the 26th!
Faculty Activities

This summer, Dr. Beth Capo participated in the National Humanities Center’s summer institute in literary studies. The institute was held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on June 26th through July 1st. The focus of the seminar was “Reading The Golden Notebook”. The leader of the institute was Dr. Toril Moi, a professor at Duke University.

Dr. Capo was asked to serve as a manuscript referee for a scholarly monograph for Rutgers University Press. This May, Dr. Udel conducted research at the D’Arcy McNickle Center for American and Indigenous Studies at the Newberry Library to complete her article, “Righting the Histories/ Writing the Stories: Literary History in the Novels of LeAnne Howe” for the journal Studies in...

(Continued on page 3)

Meet Matt Pitt (cont’d)

A rock band’s journey to success. Pitt said his characters are a group of misfits and drop outs who come together to form a band. His characters come from a short story he wrote ten years ago while living out on the East Coast. “The character’s stories weren’t finished yet”, Pitt said when discussing the choices made about his work. When asked to give the novel a tagline, he came up with this: “It is Andy Warhol’s factory in the age of Twitter and Myspace”.

After Pitt leaves of this semester, he plans on returning to his family in Mississippi and finishing the two-year novel process. He said that he will continue to write even after this story is published.

If you would like to hear more about Matt or his work, feel free to stop by his office in Sturtevant 203.

Matt will read his work on campus, November 3, Icebox Theatre, 7 p.m., and locally at Our Town Books, November 18, 6 p.m.

Matthew Pitt, Writer in Residence
New Dual Courses
Due to the new general education requirements at the college, many of the department offerings will be for dual credit. Some of the offerings for next fall will include, classes linked with the foreign language and history departments. While work is still ongoing for this endeavor, here are some of the courses that are in place:

Betsy Hall – English 121 linked with Japanese and Education.
Beth Capo – English 131 linked with History 101; English 132 linked with History 102
Naomi Hahn – 141 linked with History & Religion; 142 linked with German and/or French; Robert Koepp – 225 linked with Theatre; 250 linked with Psych and Japanese Studies

She is Back!
Returning to the English Department after a semester-long sabbatical, is Dr. Cindy Cochran. Dr. Cochran spent her semester off traveling across the country. Some of the places she visited included Washington, Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. When she was not traveling, she spent her time reading and gardening. You may have seen her on campus though while she was off. During the spring, she continued to work with the Writing Center on campus, and joined a professional writing group that exchanges work on a regular basis.

Dr. Cochran is excited to be back on campus and into the swing of classes. This month, she will be attending the Midwest Writing Center Association’s Convention in Madison, WI. She will be presenting on how writing centers scholar-writer-tutor method strengthens a students writing. Her co-presenters will be Kathy Everetz of Carrollton College and Robert Marrs of Coe College. We wish her the best of luck!

Faculty Activities, Cont.
(Continued from page 2)
Studies in American Indian Literature.

In January, Professors Capo and Udel will participate in the University of Chicago’s Midwest Faculty Seminar focused on Ralph Ellison’s The Invisible Man.

Dr. Koepp has been keeping busy by working with Ritsumeikin University in Japan. Through his collaboration, there will be a faculty exchange between the two colleges. Many of the department’s faculty have applied to teach in Japan. Professor Beth Capo, if accepted, would be teaching American Literature, while Dr. Udel would be teaching a course on Native American Literature.

Campus Writing Center Hours . . .

Sunday
3-5 p.m.
6:30-10:30 p.m.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
6:30-10:30 p.m.

Wednesday
11 a.m.-4 p.m.
6:30-10:30 p.m.

Friday
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Any day by appointment

Kirby 104
245-3385
writingcenter@ic.edu
Sigma Tau Delta News

Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, held inductions for their new members last spring. The English Department faculty and the Sigma Tau Delta members would like to welcome Melody McNeill (‘11), Anna Hochbaum (‘12), Tiffany Thomas (‘12), Emma Hudspath (‘13), Mariah Davidson (‘12), Danielle Hillis (‘13), Anna Booher (‘13), Kathleen Fox (‘12), and Daniel Brasel (‘12). We are very excited to see such bright and enthusiastic students join the group!

This fall, the society plans on hosting a poetry slam on October 20th at 7 p.m. in the Icebox. This event is open to the entire campus, and they would love to see everyone there! Their second event of the semester will be a trip to see the Improvised Shakespeare Company on November 5th. If you would like more details feel free to email Anna Hochbaum.

In order to be inducted into Sigma Tau Delta, a student must meet the following standards: complete two English courses beyond the freshman requirements, have a B average in all English courses and Gen Ed. Courses, rank in the top thirty-five percent of their class, and have completed three semesters at Illinois College. If you have any questions please contact your academic advisor!

On a Need-to-Know Basis

Just in case some of you first year students and undeclared upperclassmen were wondering, here’s what the Illinois College English Department has to offer you:

A) Major, with a literature concentration
B) Minor, with a literature concentration
C) Major with writing concentration in Expository writing
D) Major with writing concentration in Creative writing
E) Minor with writing concentration

For more information about the English Department, its course offerings or events, please contact Dr. Lisa Udel, Department Chair at (217) 245-3284 or via e-mail at ludel@ic.edu.

Alumni News

Kevan Rich (‘09) has been teaching abroad in Korea. He plans on returning soon to the U.S.

Ben Lyons (‘10) has accepted a fellowship at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. His fellowship is in Media Management and Strategic Communication. The Department would also like to congratulate Ben on his marriage to Danielle Lees (‘11)!