

# FALL 2005 HONORS COLLOQUIUM PRESENTATIONS

**KATHARINE DOWLING**

UNTYING THE KNOT: SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN  
SELECTED MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE TEXTS

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Alexander

Presentation: Tuesday, December 6, 2005; 2:00 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge

## Abstract

Gender studies are becoming increasingly popular among literary critics. It encompasses a wide range of disciplines: women's studies, men's studies, and gay and lesbian studies. The premise for the research is to establish a "norm" that evolves throughout time. This paper focuses primarily on the relationships (knots) between or within gender. It establishes the "norm" as the male, homo-social relationship seen in selected medieval texts and observes the evolution of this "norm" into the hetero-social relationships seen in the selected renaissance texts. By untying the relationship knots, the dangers of male, homo-social relationships are exposed, and the female roles are highlighted as both intrusions and solutions to the male relationships.

## Autobiography

Katherine Dowling is the daughter of Greg and Darlene Dowling of Randolph, Nebraska. She is a Secondary English Education major. She will graduate December 2005 summa cum laude and endorsed to teach grades 7-12. While at Wayne State College, Katharine has served as Secretary of Sigma Tau Delta and Reporter of Kappa Delta Pi. She also participated in the Northeast Nebraska Teacher Academy and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Her interest in gender studies stems from her research completed for her Senior Seminar project fall 2004. She has chosen to study British Medieval and Renaissance literature instead of American literature because of the more visible change in social relationships over time.

**VICTOR JOHNSON**

GEOGRAPHY OF RELIGION: LOOKING AT SACRED  
SITES AND EXAMINING HOW RELIGIOUS BELIEFS  
AFFECT NATURE

Instructor: Dr. Sharon Thomas

Presentation: Wednesday, December 7, 2005; 4:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

## Abstract

The research project analyzes the unique relationship between geography and religion. Information for this paper was found by conducting literary research and interviews. This project concentrates primarily on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Land considered sacred has been the reason for numerous wars and conflicts, and argument over these sacred places continues to play a role in world politics today. Because the religion of an area affects the people as well as the land, some religions place a heavy burden on the surrounding land and this creates cause for concern. Understanding this complex relationship will help people better understand world events that appear in newspapers every day.

### Autobiography

Victor Johnson is a 2000 graduate of Spencer-Naper High School. Currently in his senior year at Wayne State College, he is student teaching at Laurel-Concord Schools and plans to graduate in December of 2005 with a field endorsement in social science education, a coaching endorsement, and a minor in geography. While at Wayne State College he service as vice president of Phi Alpha Theta, the World Regional Geography peer tutor, and served as a judge in the 2005 Nebraska Geography Bee.

### **CHRISTINA LARSEN**

### **SEX EDUCATION: CAN SOCIETY AFFORD IT?**

Instructor: Dr. Dennis Lichty

Presentation: Friday, December 9, 2005; 11:00 a.m.; Brandenburg Education Bldg., Rm. 201

### Abstract

Sex education is a touchy subject in many schools. Some are hesitant to teach it, some do not know what curriculum to use, and some leave it up to parents to address at home. Without proper sex education, our society could face many dilemmas. Can society afford the ramifications of these dilemmas? What can be done to protect our teenagers and our society? This meta-analysis of the research explains how experienced teens are with sex. It discusses several methods used to educate teens about sex. It also contains information on who is responsible for teaching teens about sex. It also addresses at what age children should begin to learn about sex.

### Autobiography

Christina Larsen is the daughter of David and Sharon Beals of Merna, Nebraska. Christina, a 2001 graduate of Anselmo-Merna High School, is a senior at Wayne State College, majoring in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Early Childhood Education. While in college, she has been involved in Alpha Lambda Delta, Lifesavers, Morey Hall Council, Northeast Nebraska Teacher's Academy (NENTA), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Kappa Delta Pi, and Wayne State College Association of Nebraska (WSEAN). She will graduate from Wayne State College in May of 2006 after completing her student teaching.

### **SARAH LEPAK**

### **AN ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENTAL SPELLING OF YOUNG STUDENTS.**

Instructor: Dr. Marilyn Mudge

Presentation: Tuesday, December 13, 2005; 4:15 p.m.; Brandenburg Education Bldg., Rm. 101

### Abstract

Learning to spell is a developmental process much like learning to speak. As young children begin to verbalize, it is expected that they will not articulate every word or phrase accurately. So, too, is the process of learning to spell. Students in the primary grades use their own knowledge of letter, sound and spelling patterns and apply them to similar words. Five developmental stages for children's spelling strategies in the early grades have been identified in the literature; these are the precommunicative, semiphonetic, phonetic, transitional, and conventional stages. This study encompasses an analysis of identical spelling inventories administered to students at the kindergarten, first, and second grade levels. The results confirm that students in kindergarten through second grade do progress through these developmental stages as they learn to spell accurately.

### Autobiography

Sarah Lepak is the daughter of Michael Lepak and Debra Lepak of Green Bay, Wisconsin. A 2000 graduate of Notre Dame Academy in Green Bay, she is majoring in Elementary Education with additional endorsement in Early Childhood and Coaching. While at Wayne State College, Sarah has been involved in the following: Northeast Nebraska Teacher Academy, Wayne Student Education Association of Nebraska, Project SCORES, Wayne State Women's Soccer, and Intramural Sports. She will complete her student teaching during the spring and graduate in May of 2006.

### **KELLY O'CONNOR**

### **SOCIAL/POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE U.S. MILITARY'S "STOP LOSS POLICY"**

Instructor: Dr. Mark Leeper

Presentation: Monday, December 12, 2005; 3:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

### Abstract

This paper traces the history and explores the implications of a U.S. Army policy widely known as the "Stop Loss Policy." More specifically, this paper explores a case brought by Emiliano Santiago. Santiago is a member of the Oregon National Guard whose contract with the military was set to expire in June 2004, but because of the Stop Loss Policy Santiago was prevented from leaving the Army and was instead sent to Afghanistan and his date for termination was extended to December 24, 2031. Santiago's case was dismissed by the District Court of Oregon but Santiago appealed to the Ninth Court of Appeals, which ultimately denied his claim because of a single provision in his enlistment contract. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the constitutionality, legality, propriety, and effectiveness of the Stop Loss Policy by analyzing the case of *Santiago v Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld* and by conducting various interviews with military personnel.

### Autobiography

Kelly O'Connor is the daughter of Don and Cindy Peterson of Vermillion, South Dakota. Kelly is majoring in political science and minoring in pre-law. Kelly is a member of the Wayne State women's soccer team and was named Wildcat Inspirational Player of the year in 2005. Kelly will graduate in December of 2005 as a Summa Cum Laude graduate and plans to attend law school next year. She is a mother of three-year old Ty O'Connor. Her husband, Shane recently returned home from a year long tour in Iraq.

### **MATHEW PERNICEK**

### **CHANGING TIMES, CHANGING LOCATIONS: THE DIFFUSION OF NASCAR IN AMERICA**

Instructor: Dr. Randy Bertolas

Presentation: Wednesday, December 7, 2005; 4:00 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

### Abstract

This paper discusses the origin and diffusion of NASCAR sanctioned racing in America. It also touches upon the history of NASCAR moving from the pre-Modern Era through the Modern Era of today. As it has gained popularity, NASCAR has seen increased car development and safety improvements. The history of some of the more popular tracks helps show the history of racing, and one measure of NASCAR's success is illustrated by the building of new tracks

nationwide. The paper also looks at potential for the future growth of NASCAR, including new track locations.

#### Autobiography

Matthew Pernicek is the son of Irvin and Teresa Pernicek of Brainard, Nebraska. He graduated from East Bulter High School in 2002. Matthew is currently majoring in Geography Education and History Education with minors in Earth Science and Coaching. He is planning on graduating in the spring of 2008. While in college, Matthew is serving as President of Pi Gamma Mu, President of Gamma Theta Upsilon, and the Learning Center's Peer Tutor for Geography and Earth Science. He was also named the 2004-2005 Geography Student of the Year, and recently presented at the Pi Gamma Mu International Convention.

#### **LANI RECOB**

#### **HISPANIC HEALTH IN NEBRASKA**

Instructor: Dr. Alan Bruflat

Presentation: Tuesday, December 6, 2005; 3:00 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge

#### **SARAH ROWSE**

#### **A REFLECTION ON POWER, PLAY, AND PROCESS: EMIGRATION IN AMERICA A DIRECTORIAL APPROACH TO ROWING IN AMERICA: THE IMMIGRANT PROJECT**

Instructor: Dr. Gwen Jensen

Presentation: Thursday, December 15, 2005; 1:00 p.m.; Humanities Building, Room 319

#### Abstract

Neil Diamond's popular song "They're Coming to America," has become an anthem for emigration and the struggle individuals go through to find a place to call home. The play *Rowing to America* shares the stories of the struggles through six distinctly different one acts. This paper is a reflection on my directorial approach for each of the six one acts. By looking at the historical aspects, the authors' intent, and what America has done for immigrants, as well as sharing the power behind the performances and an evaluation of the process, the entire play "Rowing to America" can project the power of performance and the people who are affected by it.

#### Autobiography

Sarah Rowse is the daughter of Chuck and Beth Rowse of Norfolk, Nebraska. She is a secondary education Major with an endorsement in language arts and a minor in theatre. While attending Wayne State College, Sarah has been involved in a variety of things on campus including Cardinal Key, Circle K, Sigma Tau Delta, treasurer of Lambda Pi Eta, treasurer of Drama Club, President of Drama club, and News Briefs editor for the *Wayne Stater*. Sarah also performed in many Wayne State theatrical productions including "The Crucible," and "The Diary of Anne Frank" (for which she received an Irene Ryan National Scholarship nomination). Sarah is currently student teaching in Waunakee, Wisconsin and after graduation she hopes to pursue a graduate degree in Education and Communication Studies at the University of Wisconsin.

**JOSIE WOLFF**

**HARMFUL EFFECTS OF FOOD AID FROM THE  
WEST: A CASE STUDY OF SOMALIA**

Instructor: Dr. Randy Bertolas

Presentation: Wednesday, December 7, 2005; 3:30 pm in Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

Somalia could be the best example of what happens to a country when Western food aid spirals out of control. Negative effects have been reflected in the destruction of the local society and economy of Somalia, combined with an attendant rise in crime. More often than not, harm is created by misuse of funds that are distributed by agencies such as the United States Agency for International Development and the World Food Program run by the United Nations. Non-governmental organizations also misuse funds which are contributed in large part by the private sector. There are two sides to every story, and the story of food aid is no different. One side is portrayed by the agencies and organizations involved in ending world hunger. The other is portrayed by aid workers who have been directly involved with people facing food insecurity and have witnessed the poor results of aid first hand. What is problematic are the harmful effects generated by indiscriminately dumping huge amounts of food aid onto developing societies.

Autobiography

Josie Wolff, a wife and mother of two, is a graduate of Norfolk Senior High School and Northeast Community College. She is a double major in the fields of Geography and Business Administration, with a concentration in International Business. While at Wayne State College, she has been active in Sigma Beta Delta (an international honor society in Business Management and Administration), Gamma Theta Upsilon (an international geographical honor society), and Pi Gamma Mu (an international honor society in social science). She also assisted as a reader during the 2005 Nebraska State Geographic Bee. After graduating in December, Josie plans on continuing her career at the Elkhorn Valley Bank and Trust in Norfolk where she has been employed for the last ten years.