

Reveille

Andrews University
English Department

Volume 43, Number 3

April 2010

The Night Andrews Students Spent on Stage

By Jordan Arellano



This semester, select students from Andrews University signed up for a class like no other. For these dedicated students the entire first half of the semester has been filled with dialogues, practices, long classes, and extra studying. No, they aren't biology majors; they are the cast and production team of *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, a play based on the life and philosophies of Henry David Thoreau.

Taught and directed by English professors Bruce Closser and Gary Gray, this dedicated group was willing to tackle a project that was sure to be a wonderful experience for the participants and the audience.

A stellar cast took the stage Thursday night, March 8, at Burman Hall chapel with individuals such as Brian Urias, Molly Schuster, Judy Clipping, Fred Guerrero, Bryan Szaflarski, Rebecka Noble, Katherine Paul, Brandon Easton, J.J. Paquette, Clifford Allen, and with Jay Oetman playing Thoreau. There was also a vital group of backstage participants who did lighting, costumes, and makeup.

Rebecka Noble, an actress in the play as well as the student director, said, "It's been a great experience--there's nothing like the allure of the stage and the bond one forms with the other actors."

Bryan Szaflarski, an actor, said, "I don't know if I would do a project like this again. I would have to have a lot of interest in it after realizing the true time and work involved in a project like this." Szaflarski added considerable humor to the play as Thoreau's lightly educated cellmate.

Unfortunately, due to illness of the actor playing Thoreau, the last two performances of the show were postponed. They have now been condensed to one performance, Sunday, April 11, at 7 p.m., once again in Burman Auditorium.

Poster by James Gigante

2010 Spring and Summer Graduates

- *What is your degree emphasis?
- *What are your plans after graduation?
- *One or two of your favorite classes?
- *Five of your favorite books:

May BA

Gretchen Bell

- *Literature
- *Medical School
- *Epic Seminar and Rhetoric.
- **Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis, *The Illiad* by Homer, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling, and the *Little House on the Prairie* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Myles Compton

- *English Literature
- *Planning to attend law school.
- *Summer Shakespeare with Dr. Pittman
- **East of Eden*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner, and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

Christie Eisendrath

- *Literature
- *Get a TESL Master's degree or go to a foreign country to learn another language.
- *Modern English Grammar with Professor LaBianca and Creative Writing: Poetry with Professor Moncrieff.
- **No No Boy* by John Okada, *To Know God* by Morris Lee Venden, *The Bible*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, and *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan.

Emily Hickerson

- *Writing
- *I plan to work as an editor and earn a master's degree in cultural anthropology.
- *Poetry and Modern Literature in English
- **To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau, and *Sold* by Patricia McCormick.

Karina Mamora

Heather McDaniel

Tiffany McKain

- *Writing
- *Returning to Boise, ID and continuing education
- *Approaches to Writing taught by Dr. Matiko
- **The 13 1/2 Lives of Captain Bluebear* by Walter Moers, *T. Tembarom* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, *How's Inky?* by Sam Campbell, *The City of*

Dreaming Books by Walter Moers, and *Peter and the Starcatchers* series by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson.

Christal Notice

- *Writing
- *Graduate School
- *Literature and the Arts with Dr. Pittman (honors class)
- **The Davinci Code* by Dan Brown, *When Joy Came to Stay* by Karen Kingsbury, *A Time to Dance* by Karen Kingsbury, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, and *Life Is Funny* by E.R. Frank

Katherine Paul

- *English Literature
- *I am moving to Bloomington, IN, where I'm going to be part of the Library Sciences program. I'm also getting married!
- *Poetry and Epic Literature—often interrelated, those two.
- *Currently: *Paradise Lost* by John Milton, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* by J.K. Rowling, *Until We Have Faces* by C.S. Lewis (really, any fiction by him), *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, and *Thank You, Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco.

MA

Judy Clippinger

- *English, literature, and composition.
- *Teaching at the college level.
- *Creative Writing: Poetry with Dr. Moncrieff and Prose with Dr. Closser.
- **The Wolf and the Dove* by Kathleen Woodiwiss, *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield, *Song of the Lark* by Willa Cather, *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote, and *The Complete Calvin and Hobbes* by Bill Watterson.

Amanda Jehle

- *Teaching English as a second language.
- *I'll be teaching Comp and ESL at Southern Adventist University.
- *Language and Culture, Study of Composition.
- **A Million Miles in a Thousand Years* - Donald Miller, *The Little Prince* - Antoine de Saint-Exupery, *On Writing Well* - William Zinsser, *A Separate Peace* - John Knowles, and *Blink* - Malcolm Gladwell

Christopher Louis

Alonzo Smith

- *Masters in English/Writing
- *Teaching at a local university and pursuing a doctorate eventually.
- *Medieval Romance and Creative Writing: Fiction
- **The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *Their*

Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston, *Native Son* by Richard Wright, *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez, and *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe.

Brian Urias

- *Literature
- *I'm getting married to Ashley Wynn, and we plan to teach English in Korea for a year or two.
- *Medieval Romance because we read Middle English out loud, and we had the exciting challenge of attempting to define the genre.
- **House of Leaves* by Danielweski, *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Stand* by King, *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller, and *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf.

Fay White

- *MA in English
- *Return to the University of the Southern Caribbean in Trinidad to teach.
- *Biblical Literature and Medieval Romance
- **Annie John* by Jamaica Kincaid, *Bird by Bird* by Annie Lamott, *Life in a Day* by Doris Grumbach, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, and *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys.

Ashley Wynn

Cheree Tardiff

Justin Ferguson

- *English Education and English Literature
- *Teach high school English
- *Young Adult Literature and Medieval Romance
- **Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, *The Lord of the Rings* series by J.R.R. Tolkien, *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, and *Long Day's Journey into Night* by Eugene O'Neill.

Robert Myaing

Sehee Park

- *MA TESL (Teaching English as a second language)
- * I plan to go back to Korea and get a teaching English Job
- *Study of Composition; Second Language Acquisition; Introduction of Linguistics (In TESL Certificate Course)
- *Teaching by Principles (by H. Douglas Brown); Make lemonade (by Virginia Euwer Wolff); Second Language Acquisition (by Susan M. Gass & Larry Selinker); Techniques and Resources in Teaching Grammar (by Marianne Celce-Murcia & Sharon Hilles); Other People's Words (by Victoria Purcell-Gates)

Hyun Jung Son

Poetry in the Air

Right: Christie Eisendrath, Makyba Breezie, and Carolyn Davis outside the Bernhard Center at Western Michigan University, prior to the Donald Platt Poetry Reading, March 25, 2010.

Below: Donald Platt reading.

Below Right: Arianna Lashley, Hannah DeLucah, Myles Compton, Catherine Tetz, Lydia Weiso, and Theron Caulkins hit the sidewalks of Notre Dame University en route to a March 29 reading by Beth Ann Fennelly and other Notre Dame poets.



News Notes

Dr. Closser and Serenity David (MA student) presented a paper at the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, & Letters, on March 26, at Calvin College, Grand Rapids. The title was "Paper/Panel Presentation Title -- Written Miscommunication and Cultural Expectations." The paper reports on interviews with five international students who are writing center clients about their attitudes toward and experiences with writing since coming to study in the United States. "We are interested in what cultural elements may influence the success of their writing center visits," says Closser.

Three professors from the Center for Intensive English Programs, Asta LaBianca, Dianne Staples, and Jeanette Bryson, attended TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Boston, Massachusetts, March 24-27, 2010

"The highlight for me," says LaBianca, "was an all-day PCI (pre-convention institute) in Advanced Pronunciation. The presenters (Marnie Reed and Christina Michaud from Boston University) shared a wealth of experience, theoretical background and practical teaching

methodology, which I know will enhance my teaching of pronunciation." For Staples, "Two of the highlights were an all-day workshop on intercultural communication, and a session on English in Africa presented by linguists and educators from six countries."

English chair Douglas Jones participated in a panel at the College English Association at San Antonio, Texas, on March 26, 2010. The panel title was "Finding a Voice through Other People's Voices," and Jones's paper title was "At-Risk High School Boys Talk about Their Reading and What It Means to Them." The panel also featured three professors from Southwestern Adventist University, including their chair, Renard Doneskey, an AU graduate. Rehanna Whatley, from Oakwood University's English Department, was also in attendance.

Awards for the 2010 Parnassus poetry contest were as follows:

Winner: Tiffany McKain for "Fiveheart"
 Honorable Mentions: Sarah Gane for "Lanterns," Smantha Snively for "The Death of a Tree," and Stephen Gardner for "Samson's Enemies." Thank you to everyone who submitted poems.

Nu Sigma's Poetry and Jazz Night

By Christine Lairson and Samantha Snively

At seven p.m., Monday, March 1, 2010, around fifty students crowded into the upstairs of the Honors Forsyth House for a student poetry reading and jazz night during Andrew's Creative Arts Festival Week. Al-



though the lights were a little too bright, people dressed too colorfully (everyone *knows* poets wear black), and there was an absence of mood-setting smoke, students still gave the appearance of sophistication expected at a poetry reading.

The program opened with a few musical selections by "Cardinal Number," a jazz trio including Jasmine Zork, Stephen Zork, and Dr. Moncrieff. They played relaxing jazz music, the bass, keyboard, and mellow vocals sounding like something straight out of a coffee shop. Then came the poets, some of whom were required to read for class credit, some of which read just for fun, all reciting their own works.

Arianna Lashley opened the program with her pieces "Social Butterfly" and one untitled poem. Krystal Greene read her poems "I Am Not in Love With You" and "One Misery Way,

Despair Road." Greene cleverly said, "Although the things I say or do/ imply Mr. and Mrs. me and you/ I am not in love with you," in her poem "I am not in Love with You." She was followed by Lydia Weiso's "Silence." Drew Tetz (pictured right) performed several of his humorous poems next, including "How to Be a Punk," and "First Kiss," which is about "dying in a hideous ball of fire." Stephen Gardner read "To a Chemist" and "Samson's Enemies." Christy Eisendrath read "Hope" and "Off to College," and then Theron Caulkins performed "Sitting on a Dresser" and "Footloose." Fay White read "That Obia Woman," and explained that an obia woman is something akin to a witch or sidekick. Myles Compton finished off the first half of the program by reading his works "The Spring" which was "inspired by a very bad spring break trip," and "Boxes."

Cardinal Number then played three more songs: "Pennies from Heaven," "Unforgettable," and "Give Me the Simple Life." Tiffany Evering (above left) was next to read, beginning with an explosive, "I AM WOMAN," also the title of her poem. Makyba Breezie read "Life Science," and then Hannah Delucah read "So This Is Berrien Springs," written in the style of Ted Kooser's poems, and also "Spent,"



and "President's Day." Catherine Tetz read two structured poems entitled "Martyrdom" and "Rationale," and Eric Eskildsen recited his poem "Fall." Carolyn Davis finished the program of student poets with her extended metaphor "Paperback Soldier" and a poem inspired by the Olympics, "The Double McTwist 1260."



The evening concluded with a guest poet, Joseph Greig, who has been associated with the English Department for a very long time. He claims that his poetry is all true, he "just fictionalizes it to make it more real." He read his poems, "Self-Revelation" and "Change of Venue," which were quite humorous, followed by "November Tryst" and "Meditations on a Fire Pit." When asked where he gets his inspiration, he replied, "dreams, contemplation and observation, and quite a lot of sitting in deer stands in the fall."

Historical Thoreau

By: Dr. Bruce Closser

You've probably heard of Henry David Thoreau, but as you'll learn in the English department's production of *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, Thoreau was actually born David Henry Thoreau (on July 12, 1817), but later changed his name. By the time of his death of tuberculosis in 1862, at the age of 45, he had become known as an American poet, a naturalist, a



philosopher, and a writer. He was perhaps best remembered for his book, *Walden*, in which he reflects on his efforts to live a simple life in a cabin he built for himself on borrowed land on the shore of Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts.

This year's English department production explores a variety of issues about which Thoreau cared deeply. In many ways Thoreau, played by Jay Oetman, was the nation's first naturalist



whose views were the beginnings of the modern environmental movement. He was a close observer of nature and his personal observations of the flora and fauna of Concord were the chief subjects of his extensive journals. He was very concerned about ecological issues. In the play he laments to Ellen Sewell (Katherine



Paul)—in their boat trip around Walden Pond—the destruction of the landscape around Concord and observes that it is a good thing man cannot fly because then he would inevitably pollute the sky. One has to wonder what he would say about our civilization if he were alive today.

The play explores Thoreau's views on education and slavery as well. Thoreau resisted corporal punishment, for instance, and felt that the pedagogical views of his day were too confining, as he says to Deaconess Ball (Rebecka Noble)—as pictured at left. Thoreau actively opposed slavery as well, as we learn in his encounter with Henry Williams (Clifford Allen) the runaway slave. He was disappointed that society could not see men as men rather than white men. Recognizing that you can't hide "blackness in blindness," Thoreau warns Williams to run as far north as possible. Later, in his argument with Emerson (Brian Urias), Thoreau mourns the death of the black man who was shot by a Boston policeman for trying to make his way to Canada and freedom.

laws. The play centers around a night Thoreau spent in the Concord jail because he refused to pay his pole tax. Thoreau opposed the United States' war with Mexico, a war he considered unjust. In protest of this war he refused to pay his tax and enthusiastically went to jail. Thoreau believed that in a corrupt society, the only place for a good man is in jail. When Emerson calls, "Henry, what are you doing in jail?" Henry replies, "What are you doing out of jail?" His comment is quite serious.

Thoreau was quite angry when his aunt, thinking she had done Henry a favor, paid his tax. He had hoped his time in jail would call atten-



tion to his opposition to the Mexican war. While his immediate plans did not unfold as he hoped, Thoreau expanded his thinking in his Civil Disobedience essay, which served as the



foundation for the Civil Rights Movement in the South in the 1960s.

Thoreau's most influential work was an essay entitled "Civil Disobedience," in which he developed some of his ideas and philosophies regarding a man's moral responsibility to resist unjust

While the play is built around Thoreau's night in jail, Henry steps out of his jail cell to interact with his family, his friends, his students, and his mentor, the great lecturer, Ralph Waldo Emerson. As the play concludes, viewers will have a deeper appreciation of Thoreau's political and sociological views.



*photos from rehearsals courtesy of Becky De Oliveira



Graduating Student Hired by SAU

By: Amanda Jehle

I never planned to teach college. In fact, I never really planned on going to grad school. It almost seems like I ended up at Andrews by accident.

During the last semester of my senior year of undergrad, I wasn't sure what to do after graduation. So when I heard a professor from Andrews was visiting, I thought it wouldn't hurt to talk to him. Dr. Moncrieff told me all these wonderful things about the MA in TESL and gave me a cool mug. So I decided it wouldn't hurt to fill out an application. Then I had to take the GRE, which did hurt a little. But when I found out that Andrews would give me a nice scholarship based on GRE scores, I thought I might as well get my Master's.

So two years later, I'm again nearing graduation. But this time I know what I'm going to do next: I will be teaching composition and ESL classes at Southern Adventist University. I can't think of a job I would be more excited about doing right now! I'm so thankful that I ended up at Andrews, where I was able to gain the knowledge and teaching experience that made it possible for me to get a job that I know I will love.

It might seem like a haphazard path led me here, but I believe that God was guiding me all along. And I know He'll go continue leading me at Southern, inside and outside of the classroom.

Nu Sigma Induction

By: Christine Lairson and Samantha Snively

Sigma Tau Delta is the International English Honor Society. A member of the Association of College Honor Societies, it was founded in 1924 at Dakota Wesleyan University. This year's Nu Sigma inductees are: Renee Ali, Carolyn Davis, Alexandria Distan, Eric Eskildsen, Samantha Estrella – Boyland, Patricia Leja, Christopher Louis, Tiffany McKain, Jonathan Koch, S. Erin McLean, Lindsey Shotwell, Alonzo Smith, Charee' Tardiff, and Monica P. Thompson. In informal elections following the induction ceremony, the officers were elected. Next year's president is Carolyn Davis, the position of secretary is held by Renee Ali; Jonathan Koch was voted Service Vice President in absentia, and the Activities President is Monica Thompson. Molly Schuster and Bryan Szaflarski will both be inducted before the end of the year. "With over 700 chapters located in Europe, the Caribbean, and the United States, there are more than 900 faculty sponsors, and approximately 8,500 members inducted annually," the president reported at the induction.

Local Poet Reads Poetry

By Samantha Snively and Christine Lairson

It was "standing room only," according to Justina Clayburn, at G.R. Pearson-Burrel's poetry reading during Creative Arts Festival. The local poet from Niles was doing a reading in the Writing Center for the small crowd that had gathered. Pearson-Burrel, colorfully attired and with her own accompanist, gave readings from her book *Passion Under the Purple Parasol*. Among the selections were "Real Flowers," "The No-Gossip Sign," "Dark, Dark Chile," and "Katrina," inspired by the hurricane. The majority of her poems are about colors, nature, situations she encounters while teaching, and God. Many of her poems are exact reconstructions of dreams she has had. She explains the book's title as being symbolic: purple represents "the color of all people," passion is "the surge of life," and she sees the parasol as "a shelter or hiding place." Pearson-Burrel has been writing since she was a child, and has written two other books: *The Velum Papers*, a novel, and *I Smell Peppermint*, an inspirational book. In the future, she would like to write a prayer-book, because to her, faith and writing are "inseparable."

To end the evening, she gave advice to aspiring writers, such as the quintessential "be an avid reader" and the less common, "look at everything as an opportunity" for writing material. Pearson-Burrel finished by reading one more of her poems, "When Nobody Loves a Child."



Participating in the play has been both fun and educational. I even quoted from the play in a recent essay. Looking into my character's background was interesting. I play Thoreau's mother, and in my research, I came across an interesting anecdote. Apparently Mrs. Thoreau had a hat or a bonnet with yellow ribbons on it, and one of the Emerson women was disdainful of it because she considered yellow to be an inappropriate color for a Christian woman, and especially one of Mrs. Thoreau's age. Clearly Mama Thoreau had her own ideas about things, and she didn't much care what other people thought of her. It has also been suggested that Henry David Thoreau (christened David Henry, which is what she calls him in the play) got a lot of his personality from her.

—Judy Clippinger (Mother)



The Confessions of a College Drama - Queen (or King)



The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail is the second full-length play I have performed in for an Andrews University course. The other play, *Crossing Delancey*, was also under the direction of Dr. Closser. I have had fun with both roles, although I think I have had a chance to learn much more about acting with *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*. Dr. Closser and my acting colleagues helped me to understand how to portray one character in several contexts and moods.

My character, Waldo Emerson, shows up in the play enough to be old and forgetful, lighthearted, intimidated, overwhelmed, and angry with a highly physical element (which I didn't have the chance to try with *Crossing Delancey*, so that's a fun scene). I had the challenge of figuring out how to remain in character while expressing various feelings.

The other actors in the play helped a great deal with that. After a few weeks of practicing, I think all the actors felt comfortable telling each other 'Try this' or 'Do that,' so we always had several people helping us out, especially while working on specific scenes repeatedly.

Overall, I think rehearsing and performing the play has been extraordinary fun. It has been stressful at times, and some things were not too exciting (i.e., having eyeliner applied to your face for the first time ever), but I've enjoyed it.

—Brian Urias (Waldo Emerson)



**Andrews University
English Department**

English Department
Andrews University
Nethery Hall
Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0040

Phone: (269) 471-3298
Email: english@andrews.edu

Editors: Christine Lairson
lairson@andrews.edu

Samantha Snively
snively@andrews.edu

Advisor: Scott Moncrieff
moncrieff@andrews.edu



Douglas Jones, AU chair, with fellow panel members at the College English Association. On Jones' left is Julia Kim, new AU English faculty member for 2010, and on Jones' far left is Renard Doneskey, chair of Southwestern Adventist University's English Department. See news note p. 3.

