

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH:**

*Writing Across the Curriculum*

On the forefront of innovation and excellence in English studies, the University of Pittsburgh Department of English recognizes that writing is a powerful form of learning that can deepen a student's engagement with the subject under study. As the largest department in the School of Arts and Sciences, with 72 full-time faculty members and more than 1,000 students who are majors, the English department leads the nation in developing a curriculum that addresses the student's need to write across all subjects. Writing in the Disciplines is a unique faculty-supported program that instructs students on how to write beyond the required Seminar in Composition course.

"The English studies curriculum provides a strong foundation for the student's immersion into the different genres of writing," says David Bartholomae, professor and Charles Crow Chair, Department of English. "With the addition of the Writing in the Disciplines program, faculty members across all majors can engage students in subject-specific writing. This program introduces students to the types of writing that they will encounter as professionals in their fields of study."

The basis for Writing in the Disciplines is the belief that faculty members within a specific area of study best understand and are best positioned to teach the forms of writing required by their discipline. Students learn to write by writing often, by receiving feedback from teachers and peers, and by having the opportunity to revise their work.

"I am completely amazed by the high quality of teaching by the faculty across all disciplines; the inventiveness [used] to engage students in the writing process is extraordinary," says Bartholomae. "Through the support of the faculty in all departments, we are able to come together and make visible the best practices in writing."

Writing in the Disciplines is administered by the College Writing Board, a committee of faculty members from disciplines across the School of Arts and Sciences. The board reviews writing course proposals, judges the annual Ossip Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Writing, conducts a triennial assessment of writing-intensive courses, and coordinates workshops and events for faculty.

"We are fortunate in Arts and Sciences to have faculty members across all subject areas who recognize the need for students to write well, regardless of what they are studying," says Beth Matway, chair of the College Writing Board. Every year, interested faculty members participate in a semester-long seminar in which they develop new undergraduate courses or revise existing ones so that writing will play a more central role in student learning.

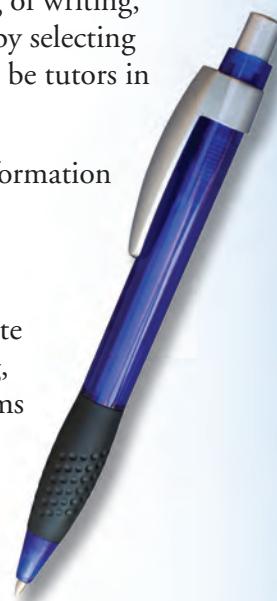
"Writing can intensify a student's learning in any course," Matway says. "When they write, students learn how to speak about the subject—how to take part in the dialogue that goes on within that particular field."

An outgrowth of Writing in the Disciplines is the Undergraduate Writing Fellows program. Launched in 2008, this pilot program supports the teaching of writing, particularly in the natural and social sciences, by selecting upperclassmen in participating departments to be tutors in designated introductory-level courses.

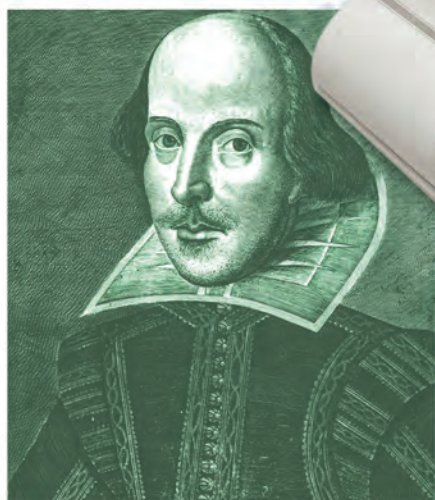
Check out [www.english.pitt.edu](http://www.english.pitt.edu) for more information on the Department of English.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The English department offers undergraduate programs in composition, literature, writing, and film studies as well as certificate programs in public and professional writing and children's literature.
- Pitt's creative writing program is one of the oldest and most prestigious in the United States, with concentrations in fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. Famous alumni of the writing program include Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Michael Chabon, Jane McCafferty, Gerald Stern, and Judith Vollmer.
- The English department is the only department at Pitt that maintains its own internship office. With support from the Heinz Endowments, internships include opportunities at CBS News, CNN, WTAE-TV, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The New Republic*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Congressional Quarterly*, *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Pittsburgh Quarterly*, *Pitt Magazine*, *Pitt Med*, *Pittsburgh Magazine*, and Bloomberg.



Michael Chabon, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist



## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Welcome back to Pittsburgh! The city is busy preparing to take the international spotlight by hosting the G-20 Summit September 24 and 25.

The G-20 Summit challenges the leaders from around the world to think beyond the borders of their own nations and to formulate decisions that will positively impact the world as a whole. This speaks to the spirit of a liberal arts education—to look past one's personal goals and ideals and to embrace the interconnectedness of the entire world. Through classes taken in the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences, students learn critical reflection, problem solving, and communication. Through the computation and synthesis of knowledge from these various disciplines, a liberal arts education provides students with an intellectual, historical, and social context for recognizing the continuity among the past, present, and future.

The School of Arts and Sciences builds a strong academic foundation for its students and prepares them to take the next successful step after they leave the University of Pittsburgh. Whether they are attending graduate or professional school or pursuing a career in the corporate or nonprofit sector, students with a liberal arts degree are equipped to lead productive lives. They graduate as leaders, enlightened and empowered to face the complexities of the world and their role in it.

A major component of the liberal arts curriculum is teaching students to think critically and analytically and to communicate clearly and precisely. The Department of English plays a vital role in this mission through its programs in literature and composition. Its courses foster a range of reading and writing strategies as well as skills in critical analysis and thoughtful discourse that provide a framework for students to model for the rest of their lives.

As we begin a new academic year, we look forward to a bright future that embraces and cultivates intellectual and personal growth through the rich texture of the liberal arts curriculum.

Wishing you a wonderful fall season,

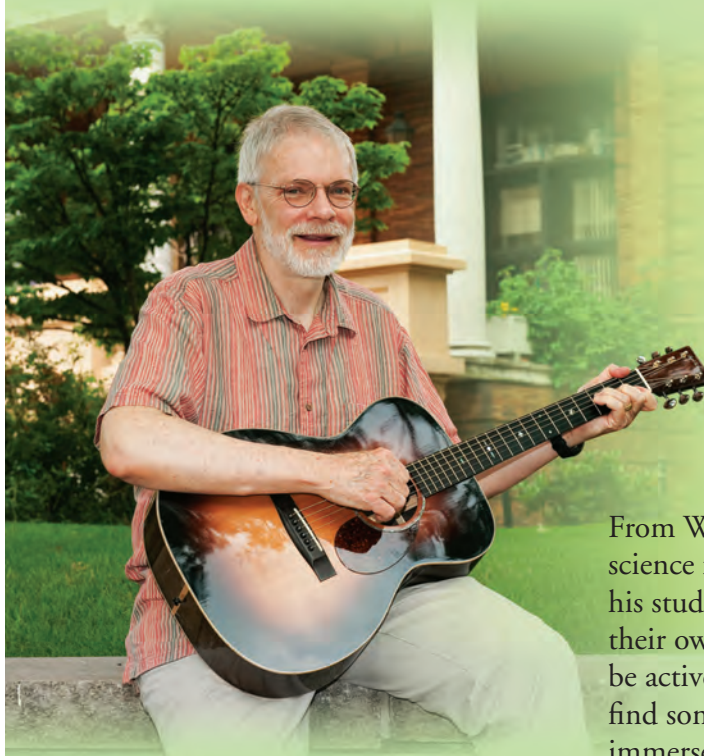
**Juan J. Manfredi, PhD**

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies



## FACULTY PROFILE

# A Literary Collaboration



Nestled in the far corners of the fifth floor of the Cathedral of Learning is the office of Philip Smith, associate professor in the Department of English. It is here that Smith talks excitedly about his passion for teaching.

After almost 40 years in the classroom, Smith continues to thrive on student interaction, convinced that it is a partnership in which student and instructor each has a voice and contributes to moving the discussion forward.

From William Shakespeare and Oscar Wilde to science fiction and ballads and blues, Smith infuses his students with the desire to explore and analyze their own viewpoints. He challenges students to be actively engaged in the thought process, to find something that they are interested in, and to immerse themselves in the subject matter.

Smith encourages students taking his Introduction to Shakespeare class to view the contemporary movie version of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* or to listen to Taylor Swift's song "Love Story." "I want students to look at something in today's culture that resonates with them and discuss whether it is exploiting or holding true to what Shakespeare has written," explains Smith. "In giving students the freedom to find their voices and analyze whether the contemporary adaptations have value, they make the determination about whether it works or not in the historical context."

In his Ballads and Blues class, Smith calls upon his musical background to help illustrate the rhapsodic melodies and poetry in many of the ballad selections. Smith is familiar with the folk genre, as he plays guitar with Smokestack Lightning, a folk group with roots in Pitt's history department. He also is actively involved in Calliope, Pittsburgh's folk music society.

This year, Smith is taking a yearlong research leave to continue to edit Wilde's unpublished notebooks. Smith has contributed to and edited *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Oscar Wilde*. He also is coauthor and coeditor of *Oscar Wilde's Oxford Notebooks: A Portrait of Mind in the Making*.

"Ever since I was first taught Wilde in the 1970s, I have been fascinated with the dichotomy of a man who is highly regarded and yet very much misunderstood," says Smith. "Through my work on Wilde's notebooks, I hope to offer a reinterpretation of a man who was a well-educated, serious artist with a tremendous amount to say on a wide spectrum of subjects."

## News & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### • *Dean's Stars*

Academic achievement brings many rewards, including a \$50 award. Students who end the fall term with a 4.0 term GPA and complete a minimum of 12 credits will see a \$50 award posted to their PeopleSoft accounts. If your son or daughter qualifies for this award but does not receive the \$50 credit by the end of January 2010, please contact us at [pittpride@as.pitt.edu](mailto:pittpride@as.pitt.edu).

### • *December Graduation*

The School of Arts and Sciences will host a graduation reception and recognition ceremony for the Class of December 2009 on Saturday, December 19. An invitation will be mailed in mid-November to those Arts and Sciences undergraduates who have applied for December graduation. For more information, contact the Office of the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies at 412-624-6480.

### • *Homecoming/Family Weekend*

Mark your calendars for Pitt's annual homecoming/family weekend (October 22–25). The scheduled events and activities provide you with a chance to visit with your son or daughter and enjoy the University of Pittsburgh campus community. For details, including hotel and football game ticket information, and to register, please visit [www.familyweekend.pitt.edu](http://www.familyweekend.pitt.edu).

### • *April 2010 Graduation Notice*

Students planning to graduate in April 2010 need to apply for graduation by Monday, November 9. Application forms will be available at the Office of Student Records in 140 Thackeray Hall beginning October 19.

## FUTURE LEADERS LEARN TODAY

# The Voice of the People

As the unrelenting conflict in the Middle East rages on, Elham Khatami follows it with much interest and anticipation. She is captivated not so much by the conflict itself but by the people. This award-winning journalist wants to tell the stories of the men, women, and children affected by the conflict and of their strength and determination to survive.

For Khatami, a senior majoring in English writing and political science, her ultimate goal is to be a foreign correspondent for a major newspaper or news magazine. This past summer, she interned at the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and her article "Facebook Brings Big Changes to Iran Politics" appeared on the front page. In 2008, as contributing editor for *The Pitt News*, she traveled to Israel with a contingent from the Anti-Defamation League. In an unprecedented series of articles that ran in *The Pitt News*, Khatami wrote on life in Israel amidst the tensions between the Palestinian and Israeli people.

She is the recipient of a Keystone Press Award and a Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Circle Award. In addition, UWIRE voted her one of the top 100 college journalists in the country in 2008. This particular honor drew the attention of executives at CNN.com, who asked if she was interested in pursuing an unpaid internship opportunity at CNN's Atlanta, Ga., headquarters. After four intense phone interviews, Khatami headed to CNN, with assistance from the Heinz Endowments to cover her living expenses.

"It was a surreal experience for me being at the Turner Broadcasting studios and seeing my byline on CNN.com," says Khatami. "It was an incredible and eye-opening experience as I worked side by side with CNN.com reporters. What really surprised me was that most of the reporting was done over the phone and not out in the field."

Although uncertain about her future upon graduating in December 2009, Khatami is excited about her next steps. She continues to forge her own path toward becoming a foreign correspondent so that she can be the voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Visit [www.as.pitt.edu/undergraduate/index.html](http://www.as.pitt.edu/undergraduate/index.html) to read the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* article written by Khatami.



## Self-service Enrollment Comes to Pitt's Oakland Campus

Moving in the same direction as peer institutions across the country, the University of Pittsburgh will launch self-service enrollment for students at Pitt's Oakland campus beginning October 22 for the spring 2010 term. This is the first time that students will have the ability to self-register. Previously, students registered through the Office of the University Registrar or with their academic advisors.

"With the implementation of self-service enrollment, advisors will have more time to give customized, personalized attention and help students make informed decisions about academic and career goals," says University Registrar Sam Conte.

This high-tech, streamlined approach to registration is similar to online shopping. Students enter through their secure student portal, select their classes, drop them into a shopping cart, and register by checking out. Students will receive notification if specific requirements have not been met for any course selected. For these special circumstances, students will need to obtain permission to enroll in the course. Even though students will be able to register through self-service enrollment, advisors still will be able to register them.

All undergraduate students are required to meet with their academic advisor prior to registration. To prevent students from registering before their advising meeting, a hold will be placed on their account. This hold will be lifted once a student meets with his or her advisor.

Students will be notified through the student center via the portal at [my.pitt.edu](http://my.pitt.edu) when they are able to begin the registration process. Registration appointments are based on the number of credits a student has earned. This same model was successfully piloted at Pitt's four regional campuses in 2008.

"We are excited to be able to enhance the student experience at the University of Pittsburgh," says Conte. "Once students meet with their academic advisors and their appointment door opens for registration, students will have the ability to register from the convenience of their dorm rooms, 24 hours a day. In fact, they will continue to be able to adjust their course selections through the end of the add/drop period."

For more information on self-service enrollment, visit the Office of the University Registrar at [www.registrar.pitt.edu](http://www.registrar.pitt.edu).



## ADJUSTING TO COLLEGE LIFE

by Mary Koch Ruiz, University Counseling Center

The transition from high school to college can be a time of heightened anxiety for incoming students. Changes, fears, and expectations accompany the transition and, coupled with homesickness, can be very overwhelming for many students. Homesickness, or separation anxiety, can be thought of as a preoccupation with thoughts of home or what is familiar. It is completely normal, and the majority of college students (researchers estimate up to 70 percent) experience it at some point. As parents, being aware of the symptoms associated with homesickness and the challenges inherent in starting college can help a student to feel understood and, as a result, adjust more smoothly to life away from home.

### What are some common symptoms of homesickness?

- Sense of loss or longing for what is familiar or secure
- Thinking no one else has homesick feelings
- Crying for no reason
- Feeling overwhelmed about minor upsets
- Physical symptoms, including stomachaches and headaches
- Intrusive thoughts about family and friends back home

### Some common struggles students may encounter when starting college include the following:

- Initial feeling of disappointment regarding school choice
- Sudden, dramatic change in lifestyle
- Challenges making new friends
- Unmet expectations of roommate, classes, and/or social situations
- Academic workload
- Additional stressors, such as, a recent divorce or death in the family or the breakup of a high school relationship

### How can you help your son or daughter to cope with transition and homesickness?

- Normalize expressed and unexpressed feelings of missing home, anxiety, and sadness.
- Keep in touch via phone calls, e-mails, and text messages.
- Encourage involvement in campus activities to meet other students and become distracted from feeling homesick. Becoming part of a social group helps students to feel connected to their new environment and has a positive impact on attitude.
- Discuss the importance of maintaining a healthy eating and sleeping schedule.
- Encourage exploration of campus. More familiarity with new surroundings helps to enhance a sense of control.
- Suggest talking with someone, such as a resident assistant or a counselor in the University Counseling Center.
- Encourage keeping an open mind. Open-mindedness fosters learning, self-development, and more opportunities to meet others.

### RESOURCES

University of Pittsburgh  
University Counseling Center  
334 William Pitt Union  
3959 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-648-7930  
[www.counseling.pitt.edu](http://www.counseling.pitt.edu)

University of Pittsburgh  
Student Organization Resource Center  
833 William Pitt Union  
3959 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-648-7836  
[www.sorc.pitt.edu](http://www.sorc.pitt.edu)

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

- Advising Center .....412-624-6444
- Academic Resource Center .....412-648-7920
- Office of the Associate Dean  
for Undergraduate Studies.....412-624-6480
- Office of Freshman Programs .....412-624-6828
- Office of Experiential Learning.....412-624-6828
- Office of Student Records .....412-624-6776

[www.as.pitt.edu/undergraduate](http://www.as.pitt.edu/undergraduate)

Questions or concerns? E-mail us at [pittpride@as.pitt.edu](mailto:pittpride@as.pitt.edu).



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## PITT LAUNCHES FRESHMAN COMMON READING PROGRAM

Students enrolled in the Office of Freshman Programs courses Introduction to the Arts and Sciences and Freshman Seminar are participating in a shared academic reading experience. Sponsored by the Office of Freshman Programs, the Common Reading Program welcomes students into the University's intellectual community by having them read and discuss the same text as part of their course work. Through discussions with instructors and peers, students will develop a greater sense of community and respect for reading as an integral part of a liberal arts education.

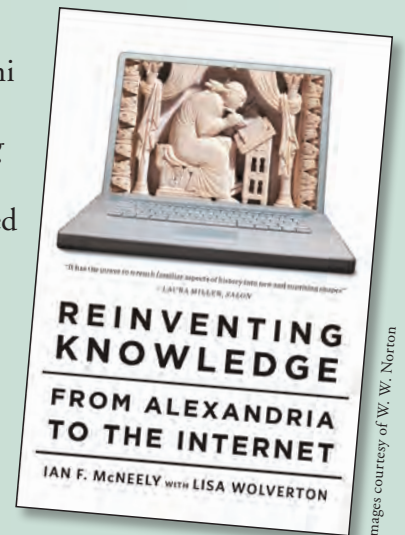
The book chosen for this year's inaugural Common Reading Program is *Reinventing Knowledge: From Alexandria to the Internet* by Ian McNeely and Lisa Wolverton. A committee of faculty and staff members in the School of Arts and Sciences chose this particular book for the interdisciplinary appeal of its content and its potential for inspiring discussion. McNeely will present a lecture about his book for students enrolled in Freshman Programs courses on Friday, November 6, at 5:30 p.m. at Carnegie Music Hall.

Other events planned around the Common Reading Program include film screenings and mini lectures by Pitt faculty members who will expand on the ideas and content presented in *Reinventing Knowledge*; essay contests; and a Scrabble tournament, with the final four participants being invited to dine with McNeely.

For more information about the Common Reading Program and the many special events planned, visit [www.as.pitt.edu/fp](http://www.as.pitt.edu/fp).



Ian McNeely and Lisa Wolverton



Images courtesy of W. Norton

The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. Further, the University will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the University's mission. This policy applies to admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in University programs and activities. This is a commitment made by the University and is in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations.

For information on University equal opportunity and affirmative action programs and complaint/grievance procedures, please contact the University of Pittsburgh; Office of Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Inclusion; Carol W. Mohamed, Director (and Title IX, 504 and ADA Coordinator); 412 Bellefield Hall; 315 South Bellefield Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15260; 412-648-7860.

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Fall 2009

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES • THE PITT PRIDE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
<b>September</b>	24 Deadline for students to submit Grade Option forms to the dean's office
<b>October</b>	12 Fall break for students (no classes)
	13 Students follow Monday class schedule
	22 Spring term registration and add/drop begin
	23-25 Homecoming/Family Weekend
	30 Fall term deadline for students to submit Monitored Withdrawal forms to the dean's office; last day to resign from all classes with the Student Appeals Office and receive a partial refund
<b>November</b>	9 Deadline to apply for April 2010 graduation
	25-29 Thanksgiving recess for students (no classes)
	26-27 Thanksgiving recess for faculty and staff (University closed)
	30 Classes resume
<b>December</b>	7 Last day to withdraw from all classes in the dean's office
	11 Last day for undergraduate day classes; spring term deadline for continuing students to register without a penalty fee
<b>January</b>	12 Reading day
	12-19 College of General Studies classes, all graduate classes, and evening classes will continue to meet during this period; final examinations should be held during the last scheduled class meeting
	14-19 Final examination period for undergraduate day classes
	19 Fall term ends; official date for degrees awarded in fall term
	20 Residence halls close
	20-January 5, 2010 Winter recess for students (no classes)
	22 Fall term grades must be approved by instructors
	23 Fall term grades available online
	24-January 3, 2010 Winter recess for faculty and staff
	19 Spring term add/drop period ends
	18 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday observance (University closed)
	6 Spring term registration period ends for all students; spring term classes begin
	5 Residence halls open
	4 All University offices and buildings reopen