

Clune and DeCicco Share Swaminathan Award

Kim Clune and Amber DeCicco, both of whom achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average in English, will share the Swaminathan Award this year. The Swaminathan Award is named for Dr. Swaminathan, who taught English for many years at Saint Rose. His family funded the award in his memory to help an outstanding English student start graduate study. Kim and Amber received this award at the Honors Convocation on March 30.

English Honors

Kim Clune is the top graduating English major. Reflecting on her English study, Kim finds that it has been “an invaluable exercise in identifying, articulating, and debating the historical events and viewpoints that have culminated in the socio-political condition that humanity faces today.”



Kim, who is originally from Angola, N.Y, transferred to Saint Rose after studying at SUNY Fredonia and working for several years. She now lives in East Nassau. Kim plans to study Environmental Studies on the graduate level and seek employment in that field. Before that, however, she will be volunteering in Ghana in July 2008, recording the lives of parents dying of HIV/AIDS for their children and teaching women’s empowerment. She will also partake in sustainable, organic farming.

Kim is happy that she pursued her deferred dream of completing an English degree. At Saint Rose, she has “learned a great deal about where my passions lie for social, economic and environmental justice.”

English-Adolescence Education Honors



Amber DeCicco is the top graduating English-Adolescence Education major. As she looks back, Amber sees “the ways in which my classes and coursework are related to one another. Themes, works of literature,

and writing assignments in one class would allow me to better approach topics in another class. This was extremely satisfying.”

Amber completed her student teaching at Amsterdam High School and Central Park Middle School in Schenectady in fall 2007. She found that “sharing with my students my love and knowledge of literature and English Language Arts, which were developed at Saint Rose, was very rewarding.”

Amber is from Fonda, N.Y. She plans to start graduate study in either literacy or library science to become a School Library Media Specialist.

Elliot Carson Wins Senior Writing Award



Three professional writers judged **Elliot Carson’s** submission, a combination of poetry and fiction, to be the winning entry for the 2008 Senior Writing Award. Elliot labels poetry his preferred genre, but says he likes to “dabble in fiction and nonfiction, too.” An excerpt, including one poem and a short piece of fiction, is included on page 2 of this newsletter.

Elliot, who grew up in Rochester and now lives in Albany, will graduate in December 2008. Before he starts graduate school, Elliot plans to apply for a Fulbright Fellowship to allow him to teach English in Brazil.

Elliot credits his study of English at Saint Rose with “pushing me to move to a new level of study that readies students for graduate school.” His teachers have been “great--both accessible and challenging.”

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Dr. Barbara Ungar Wins Gival Press Poetry Award

by Lindsay Marchetti

In spring 2007, Dr. Barbara Ungar received the Gival Press Poetry Award, which included publication of *The Origin of the Milky Way*, a collection of poetry centered on the theme of motherhood. The title poem is based on a painting by Tintoretto of Juno and Hercules when he was a baby.

Dr. Ungar began work on *The Origin of the Milky Way* during a sabbatical in 2001-2002 when she also became pregnant with her son, Izaak. By 2005, she had finished writing the full collection of poems. She would often compose short poems in her head and, when Izaak slept, she would rush to write them down before she forgot them. The book was submitted to numerous contests where it earned second place, semi-finalist, and finalist before Dr. Ungar received the call from Gival Press announcing her as the winner.

When asked about the rewarding aspects of writing, Dr. Ungar talked about the feeling of getting a good idea and then seeing it through from start to finish. The feeling is cyclical and when the work is finished, she wonders, "Will I be able to do it again?"

Ungar recently received a scholar/artist grant from the College to help her give readings. She read for the Woodstock Poetry Society in early March and her next events will be at Café Lena in Saratoga Springs on April 2 and 6, and at Borders in Saratoga on April 19 at 4:00 pm.



These puddles—like pools of reality—in mud, in gutters
on rooftops and hat brims.

On grey, windy mornings, men sometimes rain down from the
sky like divers into these heavenly reflections.

Occasionally, you will find them crumpled in alleys and hallways
broken in the corners of kitchens and showers.

They'll tell you they know that puddles are not pools. But on
grey, windy mornings they dive just the same.

Excerpts from the
Winning Entry for the
Senior Writing Award
by Elliot Carson

Once and For All

It fell straight down.

Her fingers turned white, loosened, and it fell. A red shape slid out from her hand like a moon from an eclipse. Rhyan just stood there in the kitchen, swallowed by shadows.

I turned my head toward the living room. My shoulders followed. Words hung in the air but everything seemed padded and muffled. My eyes ran back to Rhyan's face.

Her color was gone. Her shoulders were rigid. Only the apple was moving, and even that seemed to hang in the air, its waxy shape just hovering in space.

When it hit the floor, there was a thud, a thick thud. Then noise was everywhere. Mom's wails screamed through an open door. Muffled voices from the porch sputtered and rumbled like the cars that idled behind the house. Someone brushed past me, running toward my mother's tears. The same words kept running into my head but I couldn't make them out.

"Peter! Peter!" Aunt Claire's face came into my own. It was twisted and raw. "Peter!" She shook me. Those words came back. "I'm so sorry, Peter." She wrapped her arms around me. "I'm so sorry."

I disappeared behind the flesh of her arms. The folds of her neck rested on my forehead. I heaved and sobbed in her movements while my eyes stayed blankly on Rhyan. She just stood there, between Mom's hutch and the back door, frozen. Her face was vacant. But written across that emptiness, plain as day, were those words: Your father is dead.

Department Dish

Faculty

Dr. Megan Fulwiler, Dr. Kim Middleton, and Jennifer Marlow are presenting a panel, "Convergence Composition: Bridging the Digital Divide," at the Conference on College Composition and Communication. Dr. Middleton's paper is entitled 'Killer Apps' and Student Authorship: the Competing Environments of Social Software and Blogs," and Dr. Fulwiler's paper is entitled "Networked Reflection: Making Space Online."

Dr. David Morrow has had his essay, "Salvation, Social Struggle, and the Ideology of the Company Merchant: Baptist Goodall's *The Tryall of Travell* (1630)," published in *Global Traffic: Discourses and Practices of Trade in English Literature and Culture from 1550-1700*.

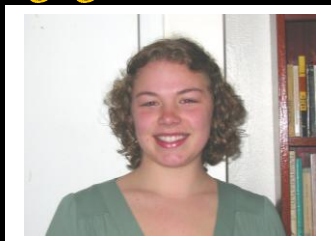
Dr. Barbara Ungar had three poems published in the winter issue of *Salmagundi*: "Unpacking," "News," and "Charlotte Bronte, You Ruined My Life."

Three of her translations from the French appeared in *CELAAN: Review of the Center for the Studies of the Literatures and Arts of North Africa*.

She was featured in *Chronogram* in February and is scheduled for an interview on WAMC's *The Bard's Eye View* soon.

Students

Changing Australia Conference



Esther Prokopenko, a student combining her B.A. and M.A., will present her paper on Tim Winton's *The Turning*, prepared in Dr. Hollis Seamon's section of the senior seminar in fall 2007, at the 2008 British Australian Studies Association Conference in London next fall.

Dr. Kathryn Laity's short story, "Eating the Dream," was published in *Femspec* and an excerpt of her play, *Lumottu*, was published in *New World Finn*; both came out in March.

She attended the Popular Culture Association National Conference in San Francisco from March 19-22, giving the paper "Phror, Becadom, Sissirishic and Huwf: Alan Moore Writes without Some Pictures" and chairing several sessions in Medieval Popular Culture.

Dr. Laity will also be giving a paper, "We'll Have to Invent a New Language': Medievalism and Gender Construction in Moira Buffini's *Silence*," at Bone Dreams: Anglo-Saxon Culture and the Modern Imagination in Oxford on April 26.

She will be a panelist for the J.R.R. Tolkien's Influences discussion at Colonie Library on April 1.

Dr. Catherine Cavanaugh will be presenting "Rock and Water: Millay and Boland in the Lyric Tradition" at the American Conference for Irish Studies Conference in April 2008.

Dr. Hollis Seamon's short story, "The Plagiarist" is in the new anthology *The Best of the Bellevue Literary Review*, published by Bellevue Literary Press, sponsored by NYU Medical College. She was part of a reading to promote the anthology in New York City in March.

Dr. David Rice's essay, "Sinners Among Angels, or Family History and the Ethnic Narrator in Arturo Islas's *The Rain God and Migrant Souls*" was reprinted in *Critical Mappings of Arturo Islas's Narrative Fictions*.

Globalization and Gender Conference



Three graduating English-Adolescence Education majors--**Ryan Callander, Caitlin Pixley, and Ashley Slawson**—presented papers on Hemingway, Lawrence, and Frost, prepared in Dr. Catherine Cavanaugh's fall 2007 section of senior seminar, in a panel on Transatlantic Gender Roles at a Womens Studies Conference in March 2008.

As Bees in Honey Drown

The Drama Program of The College of Saint Rose will present Douglas Carter-Beane's satire on fame, *As Bees in Honey Drown*, as its spring production. The play will be performed Thursday, April 10, Friday, April 11, and Saturday, April 12 at 7 pm, as well as Sunday, April 13, at 2 pm at the Campus Theatre, located behind 1000 Madison Avenue. Admission is \$10 (\$5 with Saint Rose ID).

Beane's ruthless satire follows Evan Wyler, a young writer who believes he is the new best friend of Alexa Vere de Vere—a woman who seems to know everyone who is anyone. His comic and bizarre brushes with greatness end with a shocking discovery of what fame does to identity and what identity does to fame.

The production is designed and managed by John Hunter and directed by Kenneth Krauss.

Cast

Audrey Couture..... *Alexa Vere de Vere*
Chris Petterson.....*Evan Wyler*
Tony Carrano *Morris Kaden*
Michael Sloman *Mike*
Jonathan Drayton.....*Photographer*
Rin Wilhelmi.....*Amber*
Elizabeth Corey.....*Secretary*



Candice Redden and Alex Tunney Earn Service Awards



Candice Redden says that she is inspired by those “who give more than they receive and those who deeply engage in their community.” She is definitely one of these generous and involved people, both on campus and in the larger community. She has been active in projects sponsored by the English Department, such as The Vagina Monologues (raising \$2150.00 for women's shelters) and The Laramie Project (raising \$750.00 for the Matthew Shepard Foundation) as well as the

English Symposium. She also served as the president of the Identity Club from 2005-2007 and has been active in the Environmental Club, helping to plan and execute the successful Step It Up event in spring 2007.

Candice has carried her activism and concern beyond Saint Rose, working with PAVE, a rape crisis center in Bennington, and the Bennington Rescue Squad. Candice showed her willingness to go where help is really needed by working with Habitat for Humanity in post-Katrina New Orleans in both 2006 and 2007. She says that this experience “completely changed my life. It taught me humility, true solidarity, and courage.”

Candice, who graduates in May 2008, plans to work in higher education for a while as a Residence Director and then pursue a career in Urban Policy and Sustainability to help bring “change through empowerment and education.” Candice believes that “true happiness comes from two things: community and giving” and she will “never stop working at both of those things.”

Alex Tunney has combined his love of doing something new with his passion for books and writing by serving the English Club faithfully and enthusiastically. Alex worked on the Embarrassingly Bad Poetry Reading in fall 2007 and is currently helping to edit and publish *Ephemera*, a journal of student writing and photography. Alex has also been helpful in facilitating the practical details of the Frequency North readings in the library all year.

At present, he and his co-officers, Dana Cardona and Cecelia Martinez, are working on setting up a film festival.

Alex, who will graduate in December 2008, plans to pursue an MFA in creative writing and hopes to work in a publishing house.

