



THE 2nd LAIRD Miscellany

Volume 8, Issue 2

Friday, September 21st, 2012

Senior Spotlight: Mara Kilgore



1) If you could take the place of a character in a novel, who would you be and why?

Margarita, from *The Master and Margarita*. Yes, the party with Satan would be terrible, but I would love to become a witch and fly over Moscow.

2) What is the single best English class you've taken at Carleton and why?

Shakespeare I with Pierre. Today I overheard this year's class laughing hysterically, and that really made me miss it. But also, by the end of that class I began to feel like a real English major.

3) Tell us something that most of the other English majors don't know about you.

I wish the spotlight still asked about nicknames, because very few English majors know that I answer to "Mapa" and "Maps."

4) Which book would you be okay never reading again?

On the Road. I just can't deal with my personal dislike for Jack Kerouac.

5) Six words describing your experience as a Carleton English major:

"Wait, I do want to speak!"

Quote of the Week

"Where did these enormous children come from,
More ladylike than we have ever been?"

STUDENTS! Call in to ext. 4322 with the author and the name of the week. The first person to correctly name the quotation will win a special package of cookies with a faculty signature!

Congratulations to Aditya Menon for figuring out last week's quote from "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty" by P.B. Shelley.

This Week in Literature

1598: Ben Jonson indicted for manslaughter
1820: John Keats leaves for Italy
1996: Oprah launches Book Club, much to Jonathon Franzen's chagrin.



THAT BABY WROTE WHAT?

Who is this famous author? Email whiter or lanec with your answer and you get to pick next week's baby.

Queries on Queries: ‘Occupy Wall Street: Melville’s “Bartleby”’

Our weekly look into the English Department Argument and Inquiry Seminars
This Week: Peter Balaam and Disgruntled Office Workers

1. ‘Occupy Wall Street: Melville’s “Bartleby”’ is an attention-grabber of a title. What was your intention in linking this class about 19th century literature and thought to such a current phenomenon?

Glad you like it, though for truth-in-advertising, I wish I’d named the course “Occupy Wall Street, 1853”—some of my first-years have been asking when we get to the economics part. Meanwhile, the link you ask about wasn’t mine; it was just there. From Bartleby the slacker temp-worker to the smug lawyer whose narration of the story channels 1%-er ideology, Melville’s “Tale of Wall Street” features in 1850s versions the rough equivalents of last year’s standoff between financial institutions and the Occupy movement. Incredibly, the word “occupy” comes up repeatedly in the text. Like Bartleby’s, the Occupy movement’s failure haunts us, I think. Something similar is happening in Melville’s story. The protesters knew it, and adopted Bartleby as the Occupy movement’s patron saint.

2. It seems that this class is largely about literature about and as a form of social resistance and protest. What is your favorite piece of literature on this subject?

There are some great ones. If we’re talking the desert island “favorite,” then the answer is Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

3. Which Wall Street would you rather “occupy,” that of 1853 or that of 2011?

That’s easy. It would have been great to sit in on the protesters’ un-led deliberations in Zuccotti Park last year where they set up a library and a kitchen powered by bicycle. But I’d choose 1853 by a mile. I’d give a lot for the chance to flaneur around Wall Street of an afternoon in 1853, just to see what Whitman saw.

4. What is your favorite part of teaching Argument and Inquiry seminars?

First-year students. They have a certain rare, perishable something— like the bloom on fruits— that makes them

delightful to teach.

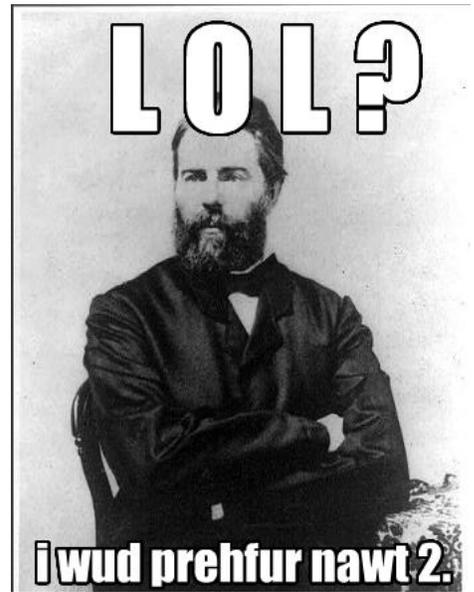
5. What makes a good A & I seminar?

A catchy course title? Beyond that, it’s a balancing act. You’ve got to impart what students really need to know about this place and how we do things but you badly don’t want to box everyone in in their very first weeks on

campus. You’ve got to make room for students to discover for themselves the kinds of work they can and will want to do as students here.

5. The English department has such a great crop of A & I seminars this year, if you could take one (that wasn’t yours) which would it be?

I really like the raucous shouting about poetic meter that’s been spilling of late into the hallway from Greg Smith’s “Visions of the Waste Land” course. Greg tells first years they’re wrong and I’m sure they are, but wonderfully, they shout right back! Eliot deserves such committed discussants. So does the topic. I spent my childhood in the back seat of automobiles traversing greater Los Angeles, keeping an eye on the lurid lights of oil refineries and whole hillsides on fire; since then I’ve been a morbid collector of visions of waste land.



English Graduate School Interest Meeting



Lingerr Senghor

Thursday, September 27, Common Time, Laird 212

Learn from a Carl who has been through it. Lingerr is currently enrolled in her second year at University of Virginia, pursuing her M.A. degree in English Literature. There will be a short presentation followed by a time for questions.