Senior Spotlight: Emily Altschul

1) If you could take the place of a character in a novel, who would you be and why? 
Pierre in War and Peace. He has some extraordinary experiences within those 1200 or so pages. Besides, no one will let me into a Free Mason lodge as I am. 
2) What is the single best English class you’ve taken at Carleton and why? 
3) Tell us something that most of the other English majors don’t know about you. 
My car is named McMurphy after the character in One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest. 
4) Which book would you be okay never reading again? 
Nathaniel Hawthorne’s short stories. Glad I read them once, but I don’t need to read them again. 
5) Six words describing your experience as a Carleton English major: Can I write about dramatic literature? 
6) If you could have a drink with any playwright who would it be and why? 
Tom Stoppard. He knows everything about everything. And if he writes the crazy things he writes when sober, imagine him after a drink or two.

Quote of the Week

“So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past”

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! There was no winner last week. Weak y’all, weak.
1. What is your personal favorite work on the syllabus for “Visions of the Waste Land?”
I like where we end up, in the postmodern playpen of Pynchon’s The Crying of Lot 49. Lots of signifiers for toys.

2. What Modernist Moment do you wish you had been present at?
That would have to be Nora Barnacle calling out to Jim Joyce that he either had to quit writing or quit laughing, she was trying to sleep.

3. Modernism is marked by an enigmatic and often disjointed narrative style. What modernist author would you choose to narrate your life? Which one would you definitely not want?
Well, I wouldn’t want Flannery O’Connor, because then I’d have to be constantly on the lookout for some Christ figure trying to kill me. Maybe I’d choose Benjy—no point trying to make sense of the sound and the fury at this late date.

4. What do you like best about teaching A & I Seminars?
I love getting to know these first-year students while they are fresh and blooming, before they turn into sullen souls in black leather hanging out behind Laird Stadium smoking a Gauloise.

5. If you could take one of the other A & I Seminars being offered by the English department this term, which one would you choose?
Pete Balaam’s “Occupy Wall St.” because when he asked me why I had yet to hand in my paper I would tell him “Because I prefer not to,” and then, having demonstrated my mastery of the subject, insist he give me an “A”.

“The heart of an Irishman is nothing but his imagination”
-George Bernard Shaw

Editor’s Hindsight: The Fall 2012 Edition: If you have been paying attention to the Miscellany this fall (really, who hasn’t), you would have noticed that we have been asking all the A & I Seminar professors which seminar they would like to teach. Just so you know, we’ve been keeping track and the prof that has the most envied seminar students will get recognition/a prize TBD.