Welcome to the middle of the semester! Registration for spring classes begins October 28, so please remind your students to register early in order to get into the classes they want. I am just beginning the second round of spring scheduling, so if you have not yet reached your credit hour limit, you will be receiving an email from me soon.

Final grades are due December 18 at noon, so please plan accordingly.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

---

Kairos
— from the Chair, Beth Williams

Welcome to the middle of the semester! Registration for spring classes begins October 28, so please remind your students to register early in order to get into the classes they want. I am just beginning the second round of spring scheduling, so if you have not yet reached your credit hour limit, you will be receiving an email from me soon.

Final grades are due December 18 at noon, so please plan accordingly.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

---

Department Updates
from the Writing Director, Marie Stokes

Chippewa High School Visits the Digital Library
Beth Pavkov’s dual enrollment College Comp class came into the Digital Library on October 10 to begin the process of locating academic sources for their research project. Sara Klink guided the students in their search through the Digital Library, which they previewed in the Digital Library Lessons before coming to campus.

Continued on page 2

---

Send your newsletter contributions to
Catherine Rock, Editor
crock@starkstate.edu x4797
Next deadline: November 15

---

The readers have spoken!
You liked the family pictures in the last issue.
See page 7 for more.
Duck or Grouse presents the Halloween issue!

We received far more fan mail for the last issue than we usually do. Many of the writers particularly liked the pictures of new members of the English Department family. In the tradition of Halloween, I’ve scared up a few more photographs for your viewing pleasure. Keep them coming!

We also accept your pedagogical essays, professional news, classroom anecdotes, Kudos, fiction and poetry, tasteful limericks, etc. Remember: There is always room for more in these digital pages. I can be reached at crock@starkstate.edu, or in E224.

Happy Halloween!

Catherine Rock
Catherine Rock, Editor

* * *

“Nine tenths of education is encouragement.”
—Anatole France
The Joy of Driving
By Yih Yee Wong

What do an elderly driving instructor and my uncle have in common? As my front seat passengers this time last year, they repeatedly let drop the same mantra: “Speed up.” This is so because I have the tendency to drive 25 mph, treating all roads as residential streets. I mean, where’s the fire? If I cycled, I’d be going at about 10 mph at most, and if I walked as briskly as my legs can manage, according to a treadmill, the speed would be 4 mph at best. So by comparison, doing

Continued on page 5

The highest result of education is tolerance.
—Helen Keller

“Education is the best provision for old age.”
—Aristotle

The Writing Center Writables

Heads up! The Writing Center is continuing to collect student essays for the 5th Annual Introduction to Academic Writing and College Composition Essay Contest and will award a $25 bookstore gift card to the winner of each category.

Students can enter if they’ve been enrolled in Introduction to Academic Writing or College Composition 1 or 2 during the 2013-2014 academic year.

Winning essays will be blindly chosen by Stark State faculty and writing assistants. Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2014. Flyers for this opportunity can be found on our website at www.starkstate.edu/writingcenter.

The Writing Center Workshops are off to a good start with students attending all but one. Students have reported positive feedback about these opportunities. If you have any ideas for future workshops that

Continued on page 4
Continued from page 3, “Writing Center” may help your students become better writers, please let me know.

Finally, it’s not too late to request a Writing Center Orientation for your class. Our Orientation will show students our new synchronous tutoring group on ANGEL, and it also helps students be better prepared for tutoring sessions. If you’d like to schedule one of our 15-20-minute Orientations, please send your request to LSchell@starkstate.edu.

---

Kudos

Adjunct Instructor Monica Lott received her Ph.D. in English from Kent State University in May. Her dissertation is entitled Seventy Years of Swearing upon Eric the Skull: Genre and Gender in Selected Works by Detection Club Writers Dorothy L. Sayers and Agatha Christie. As if this weren’t enough, on August 31, Monica and her husband welcomed Evelyn Grace Lott Leigh. (See page 7 for the photo.)

On October 11, Stark State College hosted the annual conference of the Ohio Association of Two-Year Colleges. The conference theme was “Navigating the Pathways for Student Success.” Beth Williams served as Conference Chair. Steve Edg-house and Robert Berens presented “From Academic Writing to College Composition: Shortening Developing Writers’ Pathways to Success,” and Catherine Rock presented her poster, “Helping Students to Eliminate Plagiarism in Written Assignments.”

On September 27, Catherine Rock presented “Ludlow, Shropshire: The Scribe, the Town, and Fouke le Fitz Waryn” at the 29th Annual Conference of the Medieval Association of the Midwest, Indiana State University, Terra Haute, Indiana.

---

Congratulations to Dr. Monica Lott!
25 mph is truly blazing the trails. No matter how impatient I am, and I really do consider myself a truly impatient person because I want everything done yesterday, I am reluctant to revise my sense of speed or increase the speed when I am behind a steering wheel.

Why such stubborn resistance? According to *Aesop’s Fables*, the tale of “The Tortoise and the Hare” has the slower party winning the race. I’ll admit that I love to win; if I have to move slower to win, then so be it. Though I’d much rather look like a lean and mean hare with a coat of soft fur than a round, clunky, hard-shelled tortoise.

There are other examples of how slow trumps fast. There’s the slow food movement, which is a counter-culture response to the instant gratification offered by fast foods, franchised restaurants, frozen dinners, and canned goods that are ready to eat. There’s also the slow cooker that boasts better flavors and more tender meats because of the 8 hours of stewing various ingredients in the pot.

Are there examples of fast that doesn’t work? Ever heard of speed dating? Not that I’ve tried it, but what can anyone discover in 3 minutes before deciding whether or not the other person is worthy of a first date? And what would a self-introduction sound like after doing it 20 times in an hour?

Justifying my slow driving habits does not begin to even cover the brute necessity of driving slowly just to avoid running over suicidal squirrels and drunk jaywalkers who seem to populate the sidewalks of downtown Canton no matter what time of day.

Driving speeds aside, the deceptively mundane business of moving from point A to point B has plagued human beings since even before a caveman saw a log rolling down a hill and thought to himself: “Hey, maybe I can make circular disks to get myself someplace faster.” The inherent flaw in this fictitious scenario would be that just about any object rolling downhill would move faster than an object on a completely level surface, wheels or no wheels. Personally, getting myself someplace by driving myself there takes on unexpected turns because learning how to drive at the ripe old age of 38 incurs complications both imaginable and unimaginable. I know, I really should have taken driving lessons at a much younger age when my motor skills were still developing so that I could

Continued on page 6
Since I’ve been driving for a year, I have managed to go 65 mph on the highway for the past 7 months. Slowly but surely, I am increasing my speed on non-highway roads to the appropriate range between 35 mph and 45 mph. As the days pass and I get myself to various places, the meaning of having a car expands. The four-wheeled contraption exceeds the need to merely transport myself to work and home. It’s actually a spiffy object that transports goods and friends; I also get it to hold my gym bags, reusable bags for groceries, roadside emergency kit, auto tools I have no idea how to use, and whatever else I can stuff into the trunk, back seats, and front passenger seat. Now that I think about it, my car’s a case of so much space, so little time to fill it! I am totally not maximizing utility when it comes to my car. If I don’t watch it, I might end up being a hoarder on wheels.

* * *

Continued from page 5, “The Joy”

shape my motor skills to match driving skills. But looking back, I was under the mistaken assumption that the older I got, the easier it would be to learn how to drive. This, apparently, is not true. So, if you have a child who wants to drive at, say, 16, let it happen; otherwise, you end up sitting beside a late-thirty something, rolling your eyes while you say: “Really?” when she refuses to make a left turn even though the oncoming car is about 100 yards away.

So, what has one year’s worth of driving taught me? First of all, signals are totally inadequate. There should be voice activated tickers above each vehicle. A driver should be able to narrate a traffic move, such as “Changing lanes now” or a sentiment, such as “Dude, stay in your lane.” Wouldn’t such a flashing ticker make driving a good deal safer, if not more amusing for one and all?

In addition to a flashing ticker installed above the car, loudspeakers should also be installed so that drivers can literally talk to each other. Imagine the instant gratification of being able to point out a failed safety feature: “You in the red SUV, your taillights are not working,” or “You in the Smart car, your tires need more air.” Doesn’t this totally beat Tweeting and Facebooking? I bet that if drivers inside cars could talk to other drivers in other cars, then no one would be talking on the phone or texting while driving. Both hands would be on the steering wheel and there would be peace on earth.
New Members of the English Department Family

Evelyn Grace Lott Leigh was born on August 31, 2013, to adjunct instructor Monica Lott and her husband Justin Leigh.

Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Floom
Writing Assistant Nathan Floom and Timberly Burkett were married on September 7 in Dayton, Ohio. Nathan writes, “For our honeymoon, we took a cruise around the Gulf of Mexico, stopping in Key West to tour Ernest Hemingway’s house, Cozumel to swim with dolphins, and the Everglades in Florida before heading back to Ohio.”

Marie Stokes is ridiculously pleased to announce the adoption of Pepper, a feline about 10 weeks old in the picture. He was rescued on campus by Monica Miklo, and he belongs to the new genus Starkittius Monicat.

Pepper

Special thanks for this issue go to: Duane Dodson, Proofreader Extraordinaire; Yih Yee Wong, Monica Lott, Nathan Floom, Beth Williams, Marie Stokes, and Leah Schell-Barber for their contributions. Merci bien!