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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION, YOU CAN MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO CSULB FOUNDATION, FRIENDS OF ENGLISH AND SEND IT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS, OR YOU CAN CONTACT MR. FITZGERALD DIRECTLY.

HOWIE FITZGERALD, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH BANQUET

We cordially invite all students, alumni, friends, and family to our annual Department of English Graduation, Scholarships, and Awards Banquet, which will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2011, from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the El Dorado Park Golf Course Event Center (2400 Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815).

Tickets are available in the Department of English office.

For more information, please call (562) 985-4223.

Notes from the Chair

Despite the challenges we are facing, I believe that we are all aware of how much we value the positive news in our department.

First, I recognize our fantastic students who are now reading this newsletter. As faculty it is our pleasure to read your work—skills they have honed through majoring in English. If you have an opportunity to read a current issue of Rip Rap (our creative journal) or Watermark (our scholarly journal), you see the talented students who we admire and graduate. If you are near the university this summer, when parking is always available, we urge you to come by the office, say hello, and pick up the latest 2011 editions of these very professional publications.

Second, I look at the strength of our majors and programs. We currently have 843 undergraduate majors and minors, and we have seen significant growth in our Creative Writing option and our Rhetoric and Composition option. Of course, our Literature and English Education options remain very strong, which I find both amazing and pleasing in light of this economy. We continue to have one of the strongest graduate programs in the CSU with 151 students in our English M.A. plus 22 students in our MFA program.

We could brag well into the future, and to do so, we are in the process of setting up a FACEBOOK page for our department. Once we have our page established, we will be able to publicize events and extend invitations to all of you. It will allow us to announce faculty, student, and alumni news and successes more regularly, and to keep in touch more easily.

Another area we are working on is the strength of our majors and programs. We currently have 843 undergraduate majors and minors, and we have seen significant growth in our Creative Writing option and our Rhetoric and Composition option. Of course, our Literature and English Education options remain very strong, which I find both amazing and pleasing in light of this economy. We continue to have one of the strongest graduate programs in the CSU with 151 students in our English M.A. plus 22 students in our MFA program.

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SEVENTH, I LOOK AT THE STRENGTH OF OUR MAJORS AND PROGRAMS. WE CURRENTLY HAVE 843 UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS AND MINORS, AND WE HAVE SEEN SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN OUR CREATIVE WRITING OPTION AND OUR RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION OPTION. OF COURSE, OUR LITERATURE AND ENGLISH EDUCATION OPTIONS REMAIN VERY STRONG, WHICH I FIND BOTH AMAZING AND PLEASING IN LIGHT OF THIS ECONOMY. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE ONE OF THE STRONGEST GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN THE CSU WITH 151 STUDENTS IN OUR ENGLISH M.A. PLUS 22 STUDENTS IN OUR MFA PROGRAM.

ALSO, WE ARE ALSO WORKING ON ESTABLISHING A FACEBOOK PAGE FOR OUR DEPARTMENT. ONCE WE HAVE OUR PAGE ESTABLISHED, WE WILL BE ABLE TO PUBLICIZE EVENTS AND EXTEND INVITATIONS TO ALL OF YOU.

WE WILL ALSO ANNOUNCE FUTURE MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, AS WELL AS MORE INFORMATION ON OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS.
Robert Pinsky is the librarian for African Studies and African American Studies at Duke University. CSLUB prepared me for life, not just for a career. When I attended CSLUB, one-third of your courses were electives. I was able to study film, music, and dance. I had the best Liberal Arts education in the world. It was great training for a future reference librarian.

While completing my degree, I was able to take courses from both the English Department and the Black Studies Department. Dr. Bede Siensalo was one of my professors and I learned much from him. By 1986, I was teaching high school English in East Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer. I lived in Kenya for two years and my interest in African Studies grew from there.

What stands out most is taking a class from Professor Gerald Locklin and learning that he was a friend of Charles Bukowski. Professor Locklin donated his letters to the Special Collections Library at CSLUB. I learned about archives at CSLUB. After graduating, I attended graduate programs in both Public History and Library Studies. My first job at Duke was as Director of the John Hope Franklin Research Center in the Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections Library. If not for that first visit to the CSLUB Special Collections Library, my career path would have been very different.

On a lighter note, I took both English literature survey classes from Professor Robert Bell. I remember coming in on a Saturday to watch John Boomran’s Excalibur for extra credit. Professor Bell loved Beowulf. I’ve gone back to that text from time to time. The older I become the more I understand Grendel.

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