With this issue, our little newsletter goes big time, as we begin sharing it with interested students, colleagues, and community members via a link on our Language and Literature website! This department has much to celebrate, so it's only fitting that we sing our praises to a wider audience!

**REMINDERS...UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SIGMA TAU DELTA** is hosting a student literary conference this Friday, April 2nd. Students will be showcasing their writing and presentation skills, so please support their efforts by attending this event on Friday! PLACE: Sugden Resort & Hospitality Building (SRHM 240) TIME: 1-4:00 PM.

The **Creative Writing Club** is proud to announce its second annual writer’s conference, CWC Mini-Con 2010, a FREE event featuring workshops in fiction, poetry, and blogging. The conference will be held at the Ft. Myers FGCU Campus (Ben Hill Griffin Bldg. first floor) on Saturday, April 17th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is open to the first 150 participants. FGCU students and staff receive priority registration through April 6th. For registration and/or conference materials or information, please contact the CWC Faculty Advisor, our own **Lori Cornelius**. Help support this fabulous event!

**Our faculty pitches in...**

**Rebecca Totaro** and **Anna Haney-Withrow** participated in the Multiple Sclerosis walk last weekend at Lakes Park. Thanks for representing our department, **Rebecca** and **Anna**!

**Yours truly** read to third graders at San Carlos Park Elementary earlier this month as part of the celebrations honoring the late Dr. Seuss. I loved sharing my enthusiasm for reading (not to mention my love of “dramatic interpretation”) with these kids! I think I had some budding English majors in the class!

The **FGCU Rotaract** and **Language Club** teamed up on March 27th and 28th for "Relay for life" on campus. Their goal was to raise money for a good cause and to bring the clubs together. Sponsors hope that their efforts will bring comfort to people coping with cancer.
Our Spanish Program faculty, Marta Ramos, Emilio de Armas, and Enrique Marquez presented their research at the 10th International Conference on Hispanic Literature in Lima, Peru, along with 2 senior Spanish majors, Dayami Abella and Daina Chaviano! In addition, several of our Spanish majors (Greg Bontrager, Nuvia Alvarez, Cristina Stumbaugh, Kevin Filiowich, Jose Herrera, Carolina Mere, and Liliana Guerra) had their senior research papers accepted for presentation at the X Colloquium on Hispanic Literature sponsored by the Graduate Student Association at the University of Central Florida, Orlando, on April 23rd! Muchas felicidades a nuestros estudiantes y colegas!

On March 11, our own Sue Henshon presented "Teaching Creative Writing to Middle School Students" at the National Curriculum Networking Conference held at The College of William & Mary in Virginia!

The Sam Pepys event continues to draw standing room only crowds. March 17th’s reading featured fiction writer Leonard Nash. Nash’s first book-length collection, You Can't Get There from Here and Other Stories, won the silver medal for general fiction in the 2007 Florida Book Awards.

The Mangrove Review has been nominated for Arts Publication of the Year in the 7th Annual Angels of the Arts Awards, recognizing the positive contributions and essential impact of artists, arts organizations, arts educators and supporters in Lee County! Keep your fingers crossed!

Doug Harrison discussed Edgar Allen Poe on WGCU’s Arts Edition live as part of a preview of activities associated with the NEH’s Big Read programming. Doug will also be leading a Big Read discussion about Poe and his works with high school teens at the Charlotte County Library later this month!

The Language Club is growing! They can now boast SEVENTY members including one faculty! Carol Fulton’s boundless energy and enthusiasm is infectious and no doubt contributes much to this effort!

Kim Jackson has been awarded a Student Research Assistantship in support of her research! The $10,000 award supports one graduate assistantship for a 9 or 12 month period and will provide a wonderful learning experience for one of our graduate students and offer the support she needs to pursue her various projects. Congratulations, Kim!

Jim Brock will be performing with Katie Pankow (English alum, 2009) and Brittney Brady (English major) in Barry Cavin’s Wooden Mouth, running April 7 through April 18 at the FGCU Theater Lab. Knock ‘em dead, Jim!
Updates on our English students and graduates...

Joseph Weakland (FGCU B.A. English 2009, M.A. English expected 2010) Joseph has been admitted to the doctoral program in Literary Theory at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro! He’s still weighing his options but we know that he’ll be an asset wherever he ends up! Jonathan Glover (FGCU B.A. English 2007) recently passed his qualifying exams at the University of Florida and is now ABD. Jonathan will earn his PhD in English in Spring 2011!

Encore, Encore!!

THREE CHEERS for our FEATURED FACULTY!

Please take a moment to congratulate our own Rebecca Totaro on the publication of her latest book, The Plague in Print: Essential Elizabethan Sources, 1558-1603 (Duquesne University Press). Rebecca is a leading researcher in her field and a credit to our program! She is also author of Suffering in Paradise: The Bubonic Plague in English Literature from More to Milton and coeditor of Representing the Plague in Early Modern England. Amazing work, Rebecca!

“In The Plague in Print, Rebecca Totaro takes the reader into the world of plague-riddled Elizabethan England, documenting the development of distinct subgenres related to the plague and providing unprecedented access to important original sources of early modern plague writing. Totaro elucidates the interdisciplinary nature of plague writing, which raises religious, medical, civic, social, and individual concerns in early modern England.” (Duquesne Press)

But it doesn’t end there…

Rebecca also organized an international, interdisciplinary panel on bubonic plague for the Venice, Italy meeting of the Renaissance Society of America conference, where she’ll deliver a paper on the poetry of plague in the seventeenth century. Her panel mates will present findings on plague in Italian and Spanish art and architecture and a physician who is also earning a Ph.D. in English at NYU will be the respondent. Venice is the perfect venue too, given the recent discovery of its quarantine island (ancient mass graves containing more than 1,500 victims of the bubonic plague on a small island in Italy's Venetian Lagoon) and of course, Thomas Mann’s, Death in Venice.

Another encore performance…

Last month, our own Jesse Milner was awarded the Florida Book Awards Bronze medal for his poetry collection Neighborhoods of My Past Sorrow. Well, Jesse has done it again! This time, he is the winner of the 2009 Yellow Jacket Press Chapbook Contest for Florida Poets. Jesse has won this distinction for his manuscript My Grandfather Singing. He will debut his book in Tampa at Yellow Jacket Press’s Poetry Party on April 23, 2010. Bravo, Jess!

That’s all for now...but don’t forget to send your contributions for next month! All scoops, news, announcements, commentaries WELCOME!