Welcome to the first issue of our “mini” newsletter, intended to celebrate, announce, share, and circulate news and events in our department. This is an especially short issue as 1) I didn’t receive many entries (tisk, tisk—a little guilt is a great motivator!) And 2) Your fearless leader is diligently following in her students’ footsteps…completing a paper just days before she’s due to present it! (Yes, kiddies, do as we say, not as we do.) I’ll be in Albuquerque, New Mexico part of next week at the American/Popular Culture Conference. While I’m there, I’ll be seeing a former student (BA & MA/English) Allison Dieppa, who now teaches at the University of New Mexico!

Now for the really cool stuff...

News Tidbits

Nathan Hill’s story, “The Tattoo,” was recently broadcast by CellStories, a new publication by Chicago ’zine pioneer Daniel Sinker. CellStories delivers fiction to readers via handheld computing devices like the iPhone or BlackBerry. It’s an effort to find a new way to connect readers with literary fiction. Keep connecting, Nathan! We’re proud of you!

Anna Haney-Withrow and Diane Cox were both presenters at the Leadership Summit in January. Anna’s presentation asked students to consider what leadership qualities they value then examined how those qualities are expressed in writing. She created an online multimedia presentation that eight students agreed to contribute to over the next several weeks. Through the Creative Commons licensing process, the student cohort will become co-owners of the material and can use it in their own endeavors.

Diane’s presentation, “Ethical Leadership: Doing the right thing vs. doing things right,” focused on the difference between ethics and the law; the qualities of an ethical leader; how to make ethical decisions; how to determine where your ethical “lines” are and when you might cross them; how to write organizational values that are ethics-based; how to assess a person’s ethics during an interview; who are the "real" ethical leaders in an organization; why do we care about ethics -- essentially how to take what we learned on the playground and incorporate it into our life as leaders. She was most impressed with the FGCU students
and their desire to improve their leadership skills as they head organizations on campus and as they ultimately head off into the world.

Thanks to Anna and Diane for showcasing our department—giving others a chance to see the variety of talents and skills our faculty bring to this institution!

The Language Club – students teaching students- has now officially been created (thanks to our wonderful German instructor, Carol Fulton)! The first meeting was Jan. 22nd and 8 prospective student-teachers covering Russian, Dutch, Chinese, Spanish, French and Ukrainian and Esperanto took part. Approximately 10 others were unable to attend but are planning to attend a follow-up session. Yan Bohyn, the president of the club, stressed the fact that one of the main goals is to raise the awareness of languages on campus. Carol assured him that we’re working hard to increase our offerings for students. Yan is also putting up a Facebook page to get the information out there.

How can you help build this fabulous initiative? Please spread the word!! The Club is looking for both teacher and student members. Lessons will be once a week at 5pm and Carol will be helping students get set up by offering them teaching methods.

The first meeting is FEB. 5th at 5 PM in BHG 105. Contact person is Yan Bohyn [ypbohyn@eagle.fgcu.edu].

Let’s help Carol and Yan drum up business!

Last but certainly far from least…Paul Szczesny finished his novel, The Pistolero Club. He describes it as a novel about a Detroit vice cop’s search for the person who shot him during a police raid. There’s blackmail, corruption, guilt, bandits, crackheads and more (just a day in the life of a former cop turned composition instructor!) Congratulations, Paul—I look forward to reading your work! This is an amazing accomplishment and we’re all proud of you!

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