



## Reading Matters

The Department of  
English

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February 14, 2013

### **From (the Edge of) the Chair's Seat**

Chaucer wrote a 699-line poem about it, but the Valentine's Day missive you are now reading won't rhyme, require knowledge of Middle English, or involve birds of any feather. In fact, my only nod towards today's "halydaye," is that like the birds who sing a roundel to spring at the end of Chaucer's poem, I'm happy to see at least partly blue skies and no snow outside my window.

This glimpse of spring, if that's what it is, also brings the end stages of a quality-of-life survey that started last fall. You may recall that in October of 2012, faculty and staff were invited to participate in a Working at Iowa survey. Nearly 67% did so and the results have now been compiled and released. Links on the website of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will take anyone curious about the results to various versions of the report (university-wide results, results broken into employee groups, results for the College): <http://clas.uiowa.edu/2012-working-iowa-survey-results>. Dean Djalali has asked each department to share the results with faculty and staff and then to appoint a committee to develop a response plan, which will be due to the dean by May 1, 2013. I'll distribute that report, along with fuller details about a response plan, after I've consulted the Executive Committee and associate chairs.

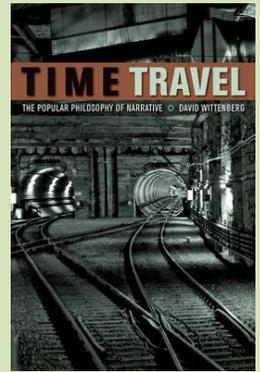
In other news, the dean comes to visit the department today; search requests for new faculty lines are being finalized; the search for a new departmental administrator to replace Gayle Sand, who is retiring this spring after 16 years in the department, is underway; the proposal to offer a new General Education course has been submitted; and the department is in the queue for updating of its website by the College's web team.

Fuller details about all of those ongoing and upcoming activities will reach you in the next few weeks. In the meantime, I hope you are enjoying the semester, which has now, amazingly, reached its fourth week and counting.

## Publications, Presentations and other Faculty Matters

**Mark Isham** gave an all-day seminar in Workplace Writing (graphic note-taking, reader-based writing, bottom line writing, using active voice, choosing an appropriate style, and using social media) to engineers and marketing & human resources professionals on February 13, 2012 at Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**David Wittenberg's** new book *Time Travel: The Popular Philosophy of Narrative* was recently published by Fordham University Press.



## Black History Month Matters

African American Studies and the African American Council have launched a Black History Reading Initiative for the month of February to honor James Alan McPherson. They are asking the community to join them in reading the featured book *Elbow Room* and celebrate the 35 year anniversary of his Pulitzer Prize. A discussion is scheduled at the Iowa City Public Library on February 22, 2013, Room A, from 2-4pm.

## Curriculum Matters

Please submit your Summer 2013 and Fall 2013 course descriptions and bookstore information to [Erin](#) by Friday, March 1.

## Facebook

The English Department is on Facebook! Go to <http://www.facebook.com/lowaEnglish> and “Like” the department.

## Other Calendars

[UI Master Calendar](#) | [UI Academic Calendar](#) | [The Writers' Workshop Calendar](#)  
[The International Writing Program Calendar](#) | [The Writing University Calendar](#)

## Future Issue

The next issue of Reading Matters will be on March 7. Please send submissions for the next issue by 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 6 to [Erin Hackathorn](#).