

English Department

Editor:
Pete Byrne

Faculty Advisor:
Dustin Parsons

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Author Patrick Somerville Visits Fredonia

Perhaps the first interactive, multipurpose book from the Visiting Writer's Program list, Patrick Somerville's *The Universe in Miniature in Miniature* proves to be a valuable collection of short stories for anyone's library and/or ceiling, and was named a "Notable Book: 2010" by The Story Prize.

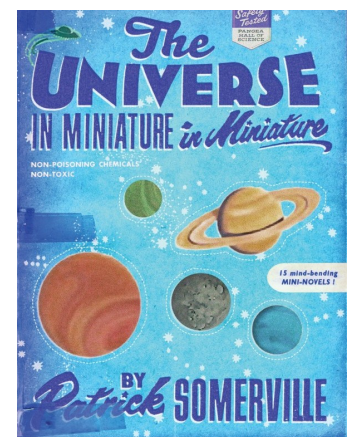
Despite the book jacket's insistence that it would make a better hanging mobile of the solar system or a handy place to keep your chewing gum, it also asks the reader to join Somerville as he retells stories of "human connection in a world seen from the inside out."

An inside-out world is an excellent way to label the almost fantastical worlds in Somerville's collection, all of which are interconnected to at least one other story's world in some way or another

despite often being from opposing genres. The book is jam-packed with short stories brimming with quirky characters and profound lessons.

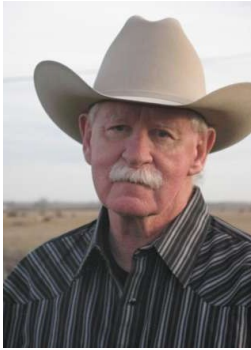
One of the most interesting examples of such in depth characterization is the unnamed nervous father-to-be who is haunted by the ghost of a Finnish man murdered by his great-great-grandfather in "Vaara in the Woods." This gruesome story speaks of every parent's fear that their past will inherently haunt their children.

Not all of the stories are as fantastical and out-of-body. Some, in fact, are a bit more relatable for the average reader. The short story "Easy Love" tells the story of another unnamed narrator who falls in puppy love with almost every woman he meets, because (as Somerville puts it) the "discussion



of love, ultimately...[is]... the focus of this story" (63). This is a more lighthearted story that is sure to bring a smile to anyone's face, especially with the future the narrator pictures having with one of his many crushes. "I saw us owning a home, something safe, and in the backyard there would live 800 or 900 puppies" (71).

Patrick Somerville will be visiting the campus as part of SUNY Fredonia's Mary Louise White Visiting



Red Shuttleworth.

Down Home Poetry

He was an intriguing man who walked with his belly out and his hat tall. On February 24th, poet and playwright Red Shuttleworth, visited SUNY Fredonia. On that same day, the school premiered Shuttleworth's new play, *High Plains Fandango*.

Shuttleworth's play features much disturbing content such as lobotomies, murder, and domestic violence. He stated that his goal with play writing is to tackle the issue of why life is unfair and why people suffer. Many audience members found the play disturbing because Red really does not give a good reason for suffering. He makes the point suffer-

*"I'm a playwright who tackles the issue of why life is unfair and why people have to suffer."
-Red Shuttleworth*

ing merely exists.

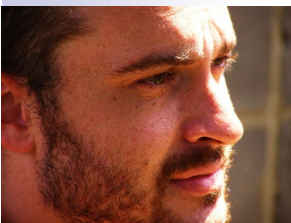
Seeing his play premiered was only part of the reason Red was at Fredonia that day, however—he treated a small crowd of perhaps 30 people to a poetry reading. Based on the bleak outlook on life in the play, his choice in poetry was quite surprising. Red started his reading with poems about baseball.

Before reading his poetry, Red noted that he doesn't like baseball. He thinks it's boring. But he did play a lot of baseball as a catcher in his younger days, so he can at least write poems about it. Shuttleworth read us a few poems about America's

greatest pastime, one titled "How to Throw a Knuckleball."

These poems were light hearted, showing a side to Red that is not as readily visible when viewing *High Plains Fandango*. Red has won the 2011 Spur Award for Best Western Poem from Western Writers of America. Although his play was premiered here at SUNY Fredonia his work has been featured at other venues such as Sundance Playwrights Lab and the Sun Valley Festival of New Western Drama. *Much of his poetry can be found at <http://poetredshuttleworth.blogspot.com/>.*

Somerville Cont...



Patrick Somerville

Writers series for 2012. He will be hosting a craft talk on Thursday, March 22 at 4 p.m. where he will present techniques for writing. Later that night, he will publicly read an excerpt from one of his books at 7 p.m. Each event will take place in 202 McEwen and is free and

open to the public.

Somerville has a history of award-winning books. His 2009 novel *The Cradle* was named as one of the top Ten Best Books of 2009 by the *New York Times*, as well as was nominated for the First Novel Award by the Cen-

ter for Fiction. The author also received the 21st Century Award from the Chicago Public Library.

For more information about Somerville's work, see his website:

<http://patricksomerville.com/>

Musical Beginnings

On Friday, February 17, Professors Emily VanDette and Ann Siegle-Drege were the special guests at Sigma Tau Delta's "Coffee Talks." The two learned they have much more in common than previously known. Before any breakthroughs were made however, both professors began with a explanation of how they ended up teaching at SUNY Fredonia.



Professor VanDette, who has been a part of the faculty for five years now, began first. Her reasoning for teaching in Fredonia is quite understandable. VanDette did her undergraduate work here and she married a Fredonia native. She has two good reasons to feel at home right here with us.

VanDette went on to do her Graduate work at Penn State. While spending time at the college and even teaching Freshman Comp, VanDette began to realize she preferred the size of a smaller college like Fredonia. The culture of such a big school made her feel "swallowed up." Her dissatisfaction with the culture may be proven by the fact that she never attended one Penn State football game! She is now comfortable back at her alma mater.

Professor Siegle-Drege explained her journey next. Her journey, beginning in North Dakota, has many more pit stops before reaching Fredonia. Siegle Drege attended to Concordia College, taught at a high school just north of Minneapolis, taught in Cape Cod, moved back to North Dakota, studied at Bread Loaf school of English in Vermont, and finally recieved her PhD at the University of North Dakota. Siegle-Drege ended up here teaching Pedagogy and Dramatic Literature.

Hearing each of the professors' journeys was interesting, but what was more intriguing was the neither knew the other



originally started college as a music major. Siegle-Drege began her first week of college as a music major. The first meeting of music theory ruined that for her. VanDette, on the other hand, spend an entire year as a music major. The 8 am time commitments were too much.

Obviously, one class and early time commitments were not the only reason for both professors shift to English. Discussion around the table shifted to the division between musicians and classical musicians. Both would have preferred composing over performance since composing involves much of the creativity and freedom that is ever present in English and Literature.

Editor:
Peter Byrne
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Faculty Advisor:
Dustin Parsons

If you would like to contribute articles to this newsletter, or you have stories that you would like to have featured, please feel free to contact either this year's faculty advisor or this semester's editor.

The editor for Spring of 2012 is Peter Byrne. The Faculty Advisor is Dustin Parsons. We are interested in knowing what the English Department wants to see in this publication.

Writing and Getting Paid For It

By Carly Morgan

At my internship with Great Writing, I get to do what is, quite possibly, the coolest thing I've done in all of college (if you don't count the Blue Ice Step Team, because I mean, come on): I get paid to write. I get paid to write from home and on my own schedule.

I write blog articles for Great Writing, a Boston-based marketing company. Everything is done virtually—even my twice-weekly meetings with my boss and the other intern, Amanda Rogers, are done via conference call—so I can work from anywhere. Which is good, because I travel a *lot*. (I actually don't travel ever. But at least I know that I could without having to miss work.) Many of the articles I write cover subject matter with which I am entirely unfamiliar until moments before I draft the article. This, I'm assuming, is a product of never having

studied marketing. But my boss, Randy, is a really great teacher, and he's really supportive, even in my ever-delayed grasping of completely alien marketing concepts.

The best part about my job so far has been writing articles about writing. I got to write one article about the epistolary form (for which I interviewed Dr. Steinberg, which immediately upped the article's cool factor), another one about knowing your audience, and one called "Five Blogging Lessons from Ernest Hemingway." The first tip? Go get mentored by Gertrude Stein. I'm just kidding. That wasn't the first tip.

The hardest part has been doing interviews. Dr. Steinberg's wasn't so bad, since I at least kind of know him. But I've had to do a couple of phone interviews with people who are basically

strangers, and that's just a recipe for disaster, given that I am terminally awkward on the phone. I am progressing though, and Randy keeps emphasizing to me that this is a learning experience and that I'm not expected to be great at everything right away.

The experience so far has been a mix of serious pressure and good fun. It definitely feels way more like real life than any college class I've taken, and that might be because I'm being held doubly accountable in this case: to the English department, from whom I'm earning three credits for the internship; and to Randy, who is paying me to write (at least marginally) well.

Get Involved!

NEW YORK, NEW YORK
Summer 2012
May Term
ENGL 399/590
Dr. Ann Siegle-Drege
MAY 15-19, 2012

DESCRIPTION: Study drama as it is meant to be explored on the page and on the stage. Read and discuss plays by prominent American and European dramatists. Travel to New York City to see and discuss productions of three plays here on campus and then travel to New York City to see productions of three plays. While in New York City, you will have the opportunity to see Broadway shows and to attend a play. You will also have the opportunity to see a play in a park. This course will include a field trip to New York City to see productions of three plays. While in New York City, you will have the opportunity to see Broadway shows and to attend a play. You will also have the opportunity to see a play in a park. This course will include a field trip to New York City to see productions of three plays.

PREREQ: Sophomore year (ENGL 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

LEARNING PARTICIPANTS: Students in good academic standing in the program.

FEES: 1. Lunch and snacks: \$120.00
2. Transportation: \$100.00
3. Lodging: \$100.00
Total anticipated costs: \$320.00

INCLUDES: Round-trip transportation from Buffalo to New York City, lodging, meals and ground transportation in Buffalo, meals and ground transportation in New York City.

SPECIAL NOTE: Transportation to Buffalo, meals and ground transportation in Buffalo.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Dr. Ann Siegle-Drege, English Department
315-262-3232
3/16/12-2/2/12

ENGL 399/590: Page & Stage: NYC Drama

Study drama as it is meant to be explored on the page and on the stage. We begin our discussions of three plays here on campus and then travel to New York City to see productions of those plays.

Dates: Tuesday, May 15-Saturday, May 19 (May Term 2012)

There are **10 seats** in the class, so register soon to get a spot. Registration opens Mon, Feb. 20.

I'm in the process of obtaining tickets for the following shows:

To Register: Bring an add slip to Dr. Siegle-Drege (Fenton 279) then submit to the registrar.

Death of a Salesman (Arthur Miller) with Philip Seymour Hoffman

See Dr. Ann Siegle-Drege if you are interested (Fenton 279).

Harvey (Mary Chase) with Jim Parsons from *The Big Bang Theory*.

It'll be a great experience, so join us!

The 3rd show is still under consideration.

Writer's Ring

Feel free to join this group if you are interested in the art of creative writing. Open to any student who wishes to participate in dynamic workshops and contribute to a community of literature., Writer's Ring is a great place stay involved and communicate with your peers outside of class.

Find Writer's Ring on FSU4U for more information.

Sigma Tau Delta

Sigma Tau Delta is the International English Honor Society.

STD is also responsible for writing related events, such as Coffee Talk, which have been featured in this Newsletter.

Visit <http://www.english.org/sigmatd/index.shtml> for more information on Sigma Tau Delta.

