What is Familiar and New in the English Department

By Karen Redfield

Welcome back! I hope whatever you were doing and wherever you were, you had an interesting, profitable, and rejuvenating summer. Coming back to school in the fall can be somewhat of a culture shock: new classes, new work and school schedules, some old and some new friends, and, perhaps, a new perspective on life and the path you are on.

Some aspects of the English Dept. are reassuringly familiar. Karen Knipschild and I are here to support you in your career and academic endeavors. You may have classes with professors whose teaching, scholarship, and mentoring you’ve appreciated in the past.

The new? Recently hired faculty members enthusiastically offering their vision of important works and critical perspectives.

We also have a new English Dept. Chair, Prof. Caroline Levine, known to many of you from her classes on Victorian literature. There is a lot of great energy with all these changes. Karen K. and I will also be offering new academic and career workshops, and I will find more places to do advising outside of the office. If you have ideas for workshops and events, or if you’d like me to do advising somewhere specific, let me know.

Speaking of events, MUSE (Madison Undergraduate Society for English) will also be organizing exciting and interesting events throughout the year, and the second year of their wonderful Literati conference in the spring. If you’d like to become a more active member of the English major community, consider joining MUSE or becoming an editor at either the Madison Journal of Literary Criticism (MJLC) or the Madison Review. These are only a few of your options.

If you have come to an advising appointment with Karen K. or me, you know how much helpful information we can share with you. Students are often amazed at how helpful we can be! A short visit can lead you to a course you had not considered, a solution to an academic problem, a scholarship, an internship or a job. That is why we are here, so please come and see us—and suggest that any friends who are thinking about the major come and see us.

Dr. Karen Redfield is the UW-Madison Undergraduate English advisor. Use her WisCal scheduler to set up an appointment.

Welcome Back - Many Opportunities Await You

by Karen Knipschild

As summer takes its final bow and the curtain of your academic year opens, don’t miss out on the outstanding career exploration opportunities that will be coming your way this fall.

In conjunction with MUSE, I will be presenting an Approaching the Job Search with Professionalism workshop on October 8 at 6 p.m. in Room 7191 HCW. This will provide you with strong advice on successful approaches to job searching and time will be set aside for resume reviews by the Writing Lab and me. MUSE will be providing more information for sign-up as the date approaches.

If you’re interested in using your humanities background in a business career, mark your calendar for a chance to meet with Northwestern Mutual representatives on October 17, 4-5:30 p.m. in Room 7191 HCW. Northwestern offers PAID internships and excellent starting salary career opportunities for individuals interested in financial planning jobs.

Additionally, watch for notices of Career Conversations and Career Panels throughout the semester offered by English undergraduate academic advisor Karen Redfield and me. Recently I developed a Careers web page to keep you updated and provide tools to assist in the job search. And as always, if you need any career preparation support, I’m just a WisCal appointment away.

Karen Knipschild is the UW-Madison English, Philosophy and Comp Lit. Departments Career Advisor.