

# HMU: Dialogues

Harrison Middleton University

5/13/2015

Volume 2, Edition 1

## Letter from the Editor:

At HMU, we have always valued intelligent, interesting, thought-provoking conversation. Dialogue drives us. We are curious and excited at scholarship. It is exciting, nevertheless, to see some wish-list items pop to the top of the agenda, such as attention to the HMU website. We hope that you will investigate our new site, [hmu.edu](http://hmu.edu). We further hope that you find it reflects our values and traditions, while at the same time, enhances online tools and capabilities for students and HMU friends.

In today's newsletter, please notice the list of our most recent graduates in the Student Corner Section on page 7. Congratulations to all!

Also, keep in mind that, as summer approaches, so do

many summer Great Books retreats. If you are interested or need some advice about an event in your area, feel free to email me. Many of the HMU staff will be participating as well, so you might be able to say hello in person!

Finally, we look forward to offering more Quarterly Discussions and Continuing Ed courses, so please check our website and Facebook page for upcoming events. If you have topics to suggest, feel free to pass those along. It is always nice to hear from you. Email me anytime at [asimon@hmu.edu](mailto:asimon@hmu.edu).

Thanks! *Alissa*

## Reviews and More:

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Thanks to HMU Graduate, **Dr. Jim Thurman** (Central Wyoming College/University of Wyoming), for the following book review.

Whitfield, Donald H., ed. *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian*. Chicago: Great Books Foundation, 2013. Print.

*You are Odysseus! Ah, dear child! I could not see you until now...*

-The Odyssey, Book 19

Reading histories of the world's various nations and peoples, one may be struck by the repetition of phrases recounting how one group or another was "a warlike people..." Our histories appear devoid of groups renowned for their gentleness, or passive nature. Long periods of peace are noted as exceptional.

*(continued on page 5)*

"The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives." ~ Robert M. Hutchins

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## *Presentation and Publication Highlights:*

~ **Thomas Wells**, HMU doctoral student, presented a paper on Plato at the 15th annual English Graduate Student Association Conference (EGSA) at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The conference, held on January 24th, 2015, had the theme of Conflicts & Resolutions: Tensions, Struggles, and Solutions in the Varied Discourses.

~ **Michael J. Caba**, HMU doctoral student, presented the paper "War and Religion: A Study of Ancient Cultures" on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 at Kilns College. This work was based on his studies with HMU.

~ **Minette Bryant**, HMU doctoral student, published her first book in her children's series titled *The Hungry Lion*. She used the pen name Katherine Brightly: "Katherine being my first name, and Brightly is just a whimsical play on Bryant." The series, composed of strictly rhymed narrative chapter-books, are aimed at middle-grade readers. "Research shows that poetry is SO good for kids...but there's so little good poetry for kids! We read them Dr. Seuss when they're tiny, then scare them with Shakespeare in high school...this series is designed to bridge that gap and offer kids poetry that's actually fun to read." The book is available at Amazon and check local retailers.

~ **Alissa Simon**, HMU Tutor, recently published an essay titled, "Mythology, Taboo and Cultural Identity in Elif Shafak's *The Bastard of Istanbul*". The entire article is available on The Postcolonialist's website at: <http://postcolonialist.com/academic-dispatches/mythology-taboo-cultural-identity-elif-shafaks-bastard-istanbul/>

~ Congratulations to **Deborah Deacon** for the success of her recent publication. She had this to say about the book: "My co-author, Paula Calvin, and I have a great love of textiles, which influenced our selection for the topic of our second book, *War Imagery in Women's Textiles: An International Study of Weaving, Knitting, Sewing, Quilting, Rug Making and Other Fabric Arts*. It is the second book in our trilogy on the impact of war on women's art. Our premise is that through the centuries, women have used textiles to express their ideas and political opinions, creating items of utility that also function as works of art. Beginning with medieval European embroideries and tapestries such as the Bayeux Tapestry, the book examines the ways in which women around the world have recorded the impact of war on their lives using traditional fabric art forms of knitting, sewing, quilting, embroidery, weaving, basketry and rug making. Works from the United States, Canada, Latin America, Asia, the Middle and Near East, and Oceania are analyzed in terms of content and utility, and cultural and economic implications for the women who created are also discussed. Traditional textile work has served to document the upheaval in women's lives and supplemented their family income. By creating textiles that responded to the chaos of war, women developed new textile traditions, modified old traditions and created a vehicle to express their feelings about the impact of war."

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## Publication Highlights (cont.):



~ **Dr. Alan J. Pew**, HMU Alumnus, received an award from the group that was the focus of his Capstone Project. He says: "The members of the East Jersey Incarcerated Veterans Group presented this plaque to me at their annual Veteran's Dinner in November 2014. This group participated in my Capstone Project. According to the President of the group, my project was instrumental in their receiving authorization for necessary office equipment, including computers. Additionally, the Secretary of the group advised that he and several other veterans had their tuition paid for them by an anonymous donor. He speculates that these donations were a result of my project. I'm not sure if they are correct in their thoughts or if these events are simply coincidental, but either way I am happy that someone seems to agree with the

concept to 'Penalize their crime, but honor their service...' I was also one of the Guest Speakers. Being unaware of the speaking opportunity, my remarks were simple and few."

## DEAC Name Change:

Harrison Middleton University is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC – [www.deac.org](http://www.deac.org)) (formerly the Distance Education and Training Council – DETC).

The DEAC is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

Distance education accreditation is certification by a recognized body that a distance education institution has voluntarily undergone a comprehensive study and peer examination that has demonstrated that the institution does in fact meet the established standards. Basically, accreditation is a process that gives public recognition to institutions that meet certain standards. It is a promise that an institution will provide the quality of education it claims to offer. Accreditation assures the student that the institution operates on a sound financial basis, has an approved program of study, qualified instructors, adequate facilities and equipment, effective recruitment and admission policies, and advertises its courses truthfully.

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## Staff Highlights:



~ **Marcus Conley**, HMU Dean of Undergraduate Studies, attended the 130<sup>th</sup> annual Modern Language Association (MLA) Conference in Vancouver, CA.

~ **Dominique Wagner**, HMU tutor, attended the 2014 Philadelphia's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Books Fall Institute Weekend with **Deborah Deacon**, HMU Dean of Graduate Studies, at the Inn at Pocono Manor November 14-16, 2014. Titled "Bawdy Romps", the group read short comic readings by Jonathan Swift, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Delarivier Manley, Nora Ephron and Lorrie Moore, as well as *The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling* by Henry Fielding, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare and *Sabbath's Theater* by Philip Roth. Rompingly fun discussions were enjoyed by all.

~ **Deborah Deacon**, HMU Dean of Graduate Studies, led a public art tour for a group of German Sister Cities exchange students at Arizona State University with a focus on Native American culture. She was also invited to present the lecture "History of Anime" at the Chandler Gilbert Community College in November 1014.

~ In April, **Alissa Simon**, HMU Tutor, attended the Community Seminar on *Native America: Coming Home from the War* at St. John's College in Santa Fe, NM.

~ **David Curd, Rebecca Fisher and Jessica Williams** attended the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) from April 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> in Chicago, IL.

"By this it appears how necessary it is for any man that aspires to true knowledge to examine the definitions of former authors; and either to correct them, where they are negligently set down, or to make them himself."

~ Thomas Hobbes

**Dominique Wagner,**  
HMU Tutor,  
at a Great Books event  
in the Poconos.



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## Reviews (continued):

Since existing peoples all seem to have been "warlike" in their past, it seems likely, albeit tragic, that groups *not* sufficiently warlike have been forgotten to history; conquered or annihilated. *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian*, an anthology from the Great Books Foundation, reflects the scourge of humanity's warlike past and present.

*Standing Down* provides the reader a syntopical approach to this critical sphere. Like *Citizens of the World*, a syntopical volume on human rights, and other similar editions from the Foundation, *Standing Down* covers a wide range of time, place, conflict, and related themes. Selections range from ancient classics, like Homer's *Iliad* and *The Melian Dialogue* of Thucydides, to those of more modern fame, such as Tennyson's *Charge of the Light Brigade*, to recent accounts of conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The styles found in *Standing Down* run the gamut from fiction, such as Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, to Tim O'Brien's brilliant, barely fictional, mostly autobiographical *The Things They Carried*, to the more purely factual reporting of journalists Eric Sevareid and Ernie Pyle. Some selections are all about combat, while others, like Lincoln's *Gettysburg Address*, are more peripheral--if no less important. Caregiving, patriotism, the role of civilians, and grieving, are examples of themes that extend beyond the myopic attention to combat sometimes found in works of this type. The selections are international in character, but

mostly represent (with the surprising omission of the Korean War) the experiences of American servicemen and women in our major conflicts.

As the title suggests, *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian*, was compiled not only to focus on war, but with the expressed purpose of assisting veterans in the often Herculean (or, perhaps *Odyssean*) challenge of readjusting to civilian life. In a time when rapid air travel allows combatants the bewildering experience of being transported from a war zone to a placid home in the suburbs in a matter of hours--gone are the days of spending a few weeks on a ship, a chance to decompress before the homecoming--any attempt to ease this transition is worthwhile, for soldiers, their families, and for the society. The value of *Standing Down* in facilitating this "warrior to civilian" metamorphosis is difficult for this reviewer\* to assess, and is sure to vary depending on the individual needs of returning soldiers. That said, Donald Whitfield and the Great Books Foundation have produced a collection of classics, and future classics, whose broad scope of time, place, and theme, makes *Standing Down* a valued resource, not just for veterans, but for anyone wishing to examine, discuss, and better understand the many facets of war.

\*The reviewer is a veteran of three decades of military service, in the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and U.S. Navy Reserve. The term "soldiers" is used here to refer to all soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

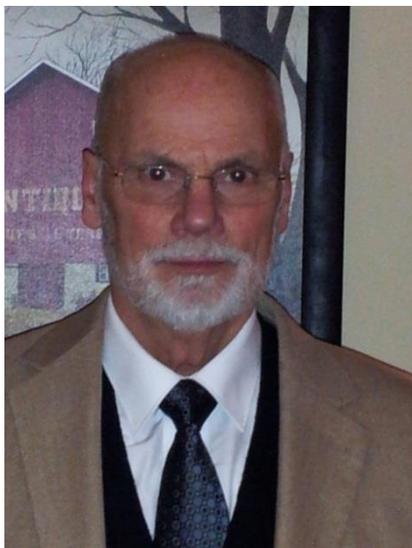
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## Meet an Outstanding Graduate:



**Dr. Edgar Daniels** is a busy college professor who wanted to expand his intellectual horizons by studying the best literary works available and apply new learning to the courses he teaches. He realized the opportunity to do this with Harrison Middleton University's Doctor of Arts program.

Dr. Daniels, a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT), is an Assistant Professor in the Child Study Department at St. Joseph's College, N.Y. where he works with students who are studying to become teachers. He is also an educational consultant who conducts workshops for teachers on cooperative learning, differentiated instruction, co-teaching, bullying, and teacher mentoring.

For his Capstone Project, Dr. Daniels designed two courses for the St. Joseph's College Freshman Year Experience Program. Both courses, *The 7 Deadly Sins through the Short Story* and *Thinking Critically about Civic Engagement*, were based on publications from the Great Books Foundation. They were both accepted by the St. Joseph's College and taught during the Fall 2014 semester.

He commented, "I continue to be impressed with HMU's educational philosophy and the manner in which they put it into practice. I would recommend the university without hesitation to anyone seeking a meaningful, rewarding, and life enriching educational experience."

## HMU Degree Offering Update:



In keeping with our mission, Harrison Middleton University now offers the following degrees: Doctor of Arts, Doctor of Education, Master of Arts, and Bachelor of Arts. Students in these programs may earn their degree with a concentration in Imaginative Literature, Natural Science, Philosophy and Religion, or Social Science. Other degree programs are no longer offered.

The change in degrees offered allows HMU to streamline university operations and reporting requirements, and keep the cost of tuition and fees low for our students. The Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) and the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education (ASBPPE) have approved the degree changes. Changes do not affect students currently enrolled at Harrison Middleton University.

For more information on Harrison Middleton University's degree programs, visit our website:

[www.hmu.edu](http://www.hmu.edu). Questions regarding the degree name changes may be directed to the Registrar at [Registrar@hmu.edu](mailto:Registrar@hmu.edu).

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## Student Corner

Please join HMU tutors and staff in congratulating the following graduates:

~ **Dr. Richard B. Bilby** successfully earned a Doctor of Arts in Humanities degree! Dr. Bilby submitted an applied project in partial fulfillment of his Doctor of Arts degree requirement, titled: "A Soldier's Guide to Shakespeare's English Histories."

~ **Dr. James Thurman** successfully earned a Doctor of Arts degree! Dr. Thurman created two college level courses for Central Wyoming College in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the Doctor of Arts degree. His courses focused on the following Great Books Foundation publications: *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian* and *Citizens of the World: Readings in Human Rights*.

~ **Gary Jarvis Waters Jr.** successfully earned his Bachelor of Arts in Humanities. In partial fulfillment of his Bachelor of Arts in Humanities degree requirement, Mr. Waters submitted an illustrated storybook in verse as the applied project. The title of his capstone project is "Gentlemen Speakeasy".

We wish Dr. Bilby, Dr. Thurman and Mr. Waters all the best in their future endeavors!

## Continuing Education:

Summer is a great time to check out trips and courses offered by some of our continuing education partners. Please see our website for additional information:

<http://www.hmu.edu/collaborations/>

If you are interested in the HMU Diploma Program or other continuing education offerings such as the HMU film series, please contact Rebecca Fisher at [rfisher@hmu.edu](mailto:rfisher@hmu.edu).

