

As a very busy semester dashes towards its finish, we can look back on it with a mixture of pride, relief, and exhaustion. With usual *Footnotes* editor **Ty Buckman** on a well-deserved sabbatical this semester, we're a little late in our salute to the new school year, but as always, there's much to report. You'll read about an impressive array of accomplishments and projects from this past summer and fall throughout, and has hit the ground running with a 180 on the Jazz Age(s) that includes Fitzgerald, Woolf, silent movies, and (rumor has it) a bit of light instruction in the Charleston. Next semester, he'll take the subject to his upper level class on Bohemians and Revolutionaries and will no doubt include his favorite literary figure, James Joyce. Dr. Smith is in one important sense not new to Wittenberg at all, having graduated as an English major (with an honors thesis on Joyce) in 1995. After bumming about Europe for a while, he completed the Ph.D. program at Washington University in St. Louis. After several successful years as a professor at California State University-Chico, Dr. Smith seized the opportunity to return "home" to Wittenberg—and are we glad he did! He and his 371 Ed, (1978) *The 20th Century American Historical Context*, p. 539-40. (11/23/2005)

Award-winning Author Tim O'Brien Visits Wittenberg

Even among an outstanding group of fall colloquium presenters, **Tim O'Brien**, National Book Award winner, made quite a splash when he appeared on campus October 10. Appearing at Wittenberg as part of this year's Wittenberg Series, O'Brien, in addition to speaking to the entire campus community, also visited several classes, and spoke to a smaller gathering of English faculty and students at one of our department colloquia. The focus of the talk was "the writing life" and O'Brien's own experiences as an author. It was largely a Q & A-oriented session, and O'Brien offered those in attendance a plethora of captivating insights and practical advice about the art of writing and what it is to be a writer. After the colloquium, most of the English Department faculty, as well as a handful of students, were fortunate enough to join O'Brien at President Erickson's home, where Dr. and Mrs. Erickson hosted a lovely dinner reception prior to O'Brien's university address. Overall, both the faculty and the students found O'Brien to be down-to-earth, approachable, and quietly charming. By the end of the evening, it seemed clear that most in attendance, whether they were writers themselves or not, were greatly inspired by O'Brien's visit to Wittenberg. The senior class can look forward to building on his visit by reading his 1994 novel *In the Lake of the Woods*, this year's common text for the senior written comprehensive exam.

--Sabrina Renkar

WittLit Receives Official Recognition

The Wittenberg Literary Society (WittLit) has been recognized as an official student organization by Student Senate. This year's officers are President Liz Powers '06, Vice President Bill Childers '06, and Treasurer Colleen Halley '07. Luckily, they haven't let success go to their heads, but have continued their hard-driving campaign to be the coolest group on campus, complete with pig-pickin's, Scrabble tournaments, and open mic nights. No doubt, members are lobbying even as we speak for a repeat of last year's successful gourmet grilled cheese sandwich/ poetry reading night!

Get Published!

Wittenberg is fortunate to have a number of very professional and polished publications right here on campus—and two of them are looking for *your* submissions!

Spectrum, Wittenberg's journal of undergraduate nonfiction writing in all disciplines, is looking for your submissions.

They consider nonfiction writing of any length, including theses. Application forms are available in the Writing Center, and students can e-mail [ots.ca.f3,36649.0.T.f649.0.Trq.q.8.33333.49.08.33333.49.0cm.BT\(i\)Tj.2.76533.0.Td.\(t\)Tj.2.76136664.317\(t\)Tj](mailto:ots.ca.f3,36649.0.T.f649.0.Trq.q.8.33333.49.08.33333.49.0cm.BT(i)Tj.2.76533.0.Td.(t)Tj.2.76136664.317(t)Tj)

Important Reminders for Seniors

Spring semester and senior comps are just around the corner. Members of the Class of 2006 should re-read Tim O'Connor
