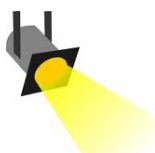


Instructor Spotlight: Mary Ann Becker



In my Law & Literature Focal Point Seminar, my students are continually reminded that “storytelling is never innocent” because we are all implicated by stories, even when seeking the truth in law. Though storytelling and the law may initially seem at odds with each other, by examining legal texts, literature, film, and news stories, my students learn how these two areas overlap and affect their daily lives.

The implications of storytelling become clear when my students examine Clarence Darrow’s closing argument in Leopold and Loeb’s case and they identify the word choices Darrow used to change the public’s and the judge’s perception of even the most horrific crime. Then, they study psychological texts that explain step by step how a reader is subconsciously

changed by a story through the process of transformation. Students particularly begin to see the overlap when we focus on legal events during WWII; for example, they analyze the defense’s persuasive development of his argument in *Judgment at Nuremburg* and they review the relevant laws related to internment camps and murder statutes as applied to Japanese Americans in *Snow Falling on Cedars*.

This year, my students attended my 2Ls’ final oral arguments in the DePaul courtroom and saw law students defending their clients against a panel of three judges that continuously fired questions at them for an hour. I expected my students to be confused by the legal arguments, but they loved it! They told me that all the things we talked about in class about using words to alter a reader’s perception, creating a narrative, and supporting an argument just clicked. As a teacher, I cannot think of a more exciting moment than when a student sees what they have been learning applied in a new context and fully understands it.

– Mary Ann Becker
Instructor
College of Law



From the Director

Reception: Thanks to everyone who made the first-ever Chicago Quarter recognition reception on Jan. 25 a success. It was a chance to celebrate the teaching teams that are at the heart of the program. We had a nice mix of faculty, staff professionals, and students. Several had nominated team members for special recognition and we presented three with awards: Professor Jim Montgomery (Honors Discover Chicago, “Chicago: City on the Lake”), Staff Professional Scott Vandermoon (Honors Discover Chicago, “Poverty amidst Plenty”), and Student Mentor Lauren Kunzer (Discover Chicago, “What We’re Really Eating: Food in Chicago.”) We are including many photos from the event in this issue. Thanks to our photographers, Professor Adam Steele and student assistant Julian Coleman.

Proposals: This is also the busy season for our Chicago Quarter and Focal Point Seminar Committees, who are currently reviewing proposals. Thanks to both committees for your diligent work making sure all the approved classes fulfill our Learning Outcomes.

Important dates!

- 7th Annual Writing Showcase Deadline: April 2nd
- Chicago Quarter Best Practices: May 31st

Writing Showcase: If you taught a First-Year Program (Chicago Quarter or Focal Point Seminar) class during Spring 2012, Summer 2012, Autumn 2012, or currently in Winter 2013, please encourage your students from those classes to enter the seventh annual Writing Showcase. This is a wonderful event that celebrates outstanding writing from first-year students. You might want to make a special pitch to students who demonstrated real writing talent and potential – even your email invitation can serve as valuable encouragement. Students may enter up to two texts, which may include essays, Digication e-portfolios, multimodal projects, and field work reports and interviews. From this website, they (and you) can download both an information sheet and a submission form: [Submission Form](#)

For the first time, they can submit online by emailing wcenter@depaul.edu. The submission deadline is April 2. The big event is Wednesday, May 15, in Cortelyou Commons – I’ll make sure you have the details as that date gets closer.

– Doug Long



On the following two pages are photos from the Jan. 25, 2013, recognition reception for Chicago Quarter teaching teams. Above (left to right): award winners Scott Vandermoon (Staff Professional), Lauren Kunzer (Student Mentor), and James Montgomery (Faculty).

