

Editor's Introduction to Juniata Voices

Volume 9, 2009

Convocation speaker Judy Katz told the incoming class of 2012 to “get lost” in all that college has to offer. I hope you will get lost in this ninth edition of *Juniata Voices*. Like its predecessors, this volume contains pieces addressing pressing concerns of our times, reflections on history, some exploration of the Juniata experience, and the most poetry we have ever published in a single volume. Contributors include Juniata faculty members, alumni and visitors to our campus from a range of places.

Benjamin Abramowitz worked for a number of years in the WPA Graphic Art Project in New York under the pseudonym of Ben Hoffman. He went on to a successful career as a painter in the Washington, D.C. area after World War II. Here we present an interview with Abramowitz, ninety-one at the time, revealing much about the Graphic Arts project experience. In another submission, Bridgewater College President Phillip Stone looks to the past for knowledge. Stone, the founder of the Virginia Lincoln Society, argues that above all Lincoln was successful because of his character and moral authority.

Several of the articles look at contemporary challenges. Kiri Wagstaff of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory provides insight into the world of distance robotics as experienced by the Mars Lander team. Brad Andrew unties the Gordian knot of the recent financial crisis. Former Senator J. Bennett Johnson, in a talk given during the heated phases of the presidential campaign, speaks on the vital problem of energy policy and how the United States could and should move forward. Dennis Plane offers an account of teaching politics in a presidential election year. As he shows, it is both a challenge for a politics professor and an opportunity.

Poetry readings are alive and well in Central Pennsylvania and this year was exceptionally strong. Much of the interest in live poetry can be traced to Juniata's literary magazine, *Kvasir*, working in conjunction with a community literary organization called the Aughwick Poets and Writers. The final leg of our stool came in the form of the newly-opened Standing Stone Coffee Café where the two groups have their readings. This renaissance of reading and its setting are given humorous and affectionate treatment in

Jack Troy's poem "For The Standing Stone Coffee Company." In addition to Troy's three poems, visitors Erin Murphy and Katherine Young contributed poems. As did poetry teacher, Juniata professor, and unofficial poetry editor of *Voices*, Peter Goldstein, who contributes two poems from his standing-room only reading.

Closing out the year and this volume are two Juniata alumni who offered messages to the graduating seniors. Loren Rhodes, Professor of Information Technology, considers the role of technology in our lives and encourages the seniors to be hopeful, in a worried age, about the possibility for technological change to improve our lives. Peter Marzio makes the case that Juniata understands its mission and pursues it well as it teaches not only disciplinary knowledge, but qualities of character that students need.

James Tuten

Editor-in-Chief