

BENNINGTON

C O L L E G E

BENNINGTON WRITING SEMINARS

Liam Rector
Director

Priscilla Hodgkins
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Student Director

Hello Jaime -
How are you?
THANK YOU FOR THE RESIDENCY
EVALUATION - it is very helpful.
Cille

September 19, 1996

To: Writing Seminars Students

From: Priscilla Hodgkins

Cille

Greetings from Bennington, where the houses are once again home to the undergraduate population. There are over 120 new students (aka Freshmen) on campus and it seems they have a sense of humor. Posters went up all over the barn asking students to support inauguration of fraternities and sororities on campus. You can imagine the wail that went up from the senior classes.

The literary highlights of the fall events calendar are a lecture by J. M. Coetzee on November 13 and readings by Rachel Hadas on September 26 and Grace Paley on December 4. Let me know if you will be in the area and want to attend.

I just returned from 17 days in Northern California where I bumped into George Carver at a farmers' market in Truckee -- a very small farmer's market in a small city high in the Sierra mountains. "Weird!" is what we said. George and Larry Bielawski will build a WEB page for us on the Internet soon. Do send your thoughts on that to them. If your e-mail address is not listed in the latest list I sent out (August 1996), please send it to me via e-mail (benncill@aol.com).

Susan Dodd's house on Ocracoke lost a few shingles when hurricane Bertha passed by but Fran didn't even lift the doormat off her top step.

I am very pleased to take on the duties of Director of Students. Sven sent me his playbook, the umpire's whistle and a bucket of Play-do. I understand the sports metaphors, but not the kid-clay-- any ideas? I am also very happy to say that Mary-Beth Hughes has taken on the job of part-time assistant and accepted the "golden clipboard"-- the primary tool for coordinating residency activities. As Director of Students, I'm the one you notify about leaves of absence, your preferences for faculty (I'll send you a form in October), third-semester genre changes and such. I am also here to listen to your

concerns and answer your questions about the program. I will also be working closely with the Student Life Committee and our growing alumni association.

To help you make plans, here are the some important dates for the academic year:

RESIDENCY DATES

	<u>WINTER</u>	<u>SUMMER</u>
Faculty preferences and		
Workshop material due	December 17	May 20
Arrive	January 9	June 12
Day one	January 10	June 13
Day ten & Graduation	January 19	June 22
Depart	January 20.	June 23

MID-TERM

September 16

March 17

Students' mid-term evaluations due.

Second semester students' intent to change genre in third semester due.

Students' intent to take a leave of absence in next term due.

FINAL PACKETS DUE:

May 31

November 30

December is the one month in which there is no packet activity.

Instructor preferences for next term:

Don't send me notes, postcards, letters -- I will send you a form. There has been too much difficulty in the past with keeping track of the various ways students have alerted me to their faculty preference. Now that there are about 80 students, I have to insist that you all use the form. Early submission does not alter your status but late submission will definitely hamper your chances of getting your preference. If you feel you have "special circumstances" there is ample opportunity on the form to make that clear.

Leaves of absence - next term.

If you intend to take a leave of absence in the next semester we need to know that by the mid-term of the current semester. The reason is simple: adjustments to the enrollment are a finely-tuned business with the student to faculty ratio at 5: 1. There is a monetary issue at stake here for all of us. For you: requests received after mid-term are subject to forfeiture of your matriculation fee (\$500). For this term, you must alert the office of any changes by September 30th.

Emergency leaves - during the term.

A special note to students receiving student loans via the Fed. To the Fed, the only word they have for leaving a semester in progress is "withdrawal" which means that you are no longer in good standing to receive Federal student loans upon your return. If this is an issue for you, contact me and I will explain the appeal process to you.

Transcripts & letters of enrollment & reading lists

The registrar's office will send out your transcripts provided they receive a request in writing. Send the letter to me and I will push it through the process. It normally takes two weeks.

If you don't need a full transcript, but only an official letter of your standing within the program, then let me know via the phone or e-mail. I will write the letter -- only give me a week or more lead-time.

Do keep track of the books you read. Your reading list becomes part of your official transcript. I will request a copy of your list before you graduate.

Chat room on AOL

Many questions from students, but I don't have any answers. Is there someone out there running the Wednesday night chat-room? This is traditionally a student-run activity.

As always, I am here to answer your questions and concerns. Office hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. I tune into e-mail about once a week, so while it may be convenient for you, it is not the fastest way to reach me. Do keep in touch.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOUR MID-TERM EVALUATION WAS RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 18, YOUR FACULTY MID-TERM EVALUATION IS ENCLOSED. ALL OTHER EVALUATIONS WILL BE SENT TO STUDENTS UPON RECEIPT OF THEIR COMMENTS.