

The St. Norbert College  
Office of Faculty Development  
*invites you to attend*

# Spotlight On Scholarship

## A Sabbatical Report

Throughout the year we will host a series of presentations to recognize professional achievement in scholarship and to celebrate the rich diversity and talents of our colleagues.

*This Spotlight on Scholarship features*

---

**John Neary**  
*Professor of English*

---

SHADOWS AND ILLUMINATIONS: Literary Journeys to the Dark Side

Why are we humans fascinated by stories of journeys to the dark side? Do all of us Dr. Jekylls have an inner, secret Mr. Hyde? Is there some kind of spiritual illumination that ironically comes from darkness and melancholy? Questions such as these drove John's spring 2008 sabbatical, in which he worked on a book called "Shadows and Illuminations: Literature as Spiritual Journey." He dove into such works as Hawthorne's short story "Young Goodman Brown," Kubrick's film *Eyes Wide Shut*, Toni Morrison's *Sula*, and Jonathan Safran Foer's *Everything Is Illuminated* to examine the spiritual dimensions of the human quest for "the heart of darkness." He looked at writers and artists who go on imaginative voyages to a realm of shadow and uncanny, disturbing discovery that can be a necessary—perhaps even beautiful and life-expanding—part of the search for meaning.

Using film clips and illustrations from the literary and theoretical texts he studied, John will talk about the book that he has been writing about this topic, and he invites attendees to come with titles of their own favorite works that explore "the dark side."



**Monday, February 16, 2009**  
**12:20 – 1:10**  
**Union Shield Room**



The Office of Faculty Development will provide light refreshments.