



EDEN

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"Pay attention to what the tour guide doesn't say," said a member of our group. This was crucial. To understand the lives of slaves, we had to pay attention to the silences." These are MA student Lizzie Michael's words, describing the experiential learning journey of early April that included six graduate and undergraduate students, organized by **Dr. Rachel May** with **Dr. Wendy Farkas**, and supported by the Graduate School and Office of the Dean. The group visited sites in Wisconsin and Illinois and slept in the small Henry Dodge cabin. Joseph McGill, founder of The Slave Dwelling Project, has slept in more than 93 extant slave dwellings to raise awareness and advocate for the sites' preservation; he led the group in conversations about what we preserve or destroy, speak or silence, and how the legacies of slavery spin into our lives today. Alex Clark wrote of our overnight: "As our group quieted down and the snores started to fill the room, I thought about the enslaved people that called this place home. I thought about...how the version of history I learned as a child was not a reiteration of truth written in stone, but a retelling of myth, sometimes used to rationalize colonization, often used to erase entire populations from the narrative. I thought about how much my back, my hips, my neck hurt as they pressed against the hard, cold wooden floorboards. How this must've felt after a hard day of manual labor, covered in the sweat and mess of the local lead mines..."

Earlier this semester, **Dr. Rachel May** presented on a panel, Funding for Literary Magazines, at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference in Washington, DC. A revision of her co-authored paper, "The Cushman Quilt Tops: Two Hundred Years of History," was accepted by the American Quilt Study Group, a peer-reviewed journal, and will be published at the annual seminar in October 2017. An image+text essay, "Exposure: A Textile Tango," was published in Zone 3 Online's Special Feature. In June, she'll present a paper on Barthes and image+text work at the NonfictionNOW Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland. She was awarded a Faculty Research Grant to edit a creative-critical anthology on image+text literary works, in collaboration with Emily Lanctot of the School of Art & Design.

Dr. Kia Jane Richmond, Professor and Director of English Education, notes the following professional scholarship activities:

American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Presented paper "Literacy Quadrants and Teacher Narratives: Pedagogical Tools to Foster Reflection and Improve Dialogue about Diverse Democracies" with Elsie L. Olan and Maureen McDermott on April 27, 2017.

Forthcoming Publication: "Storying Our Journey: Conversations about the Literary Canon and Course Development in Secondary English Education" with Elsie L. Olan, Wisconsin English teacher. Forthcoming Summer/Fall 2017.

Presentation this fall accepted for the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English (2017 ALAN Annual Conference). "Disrupting Notions of Stigma while Empowering Voices: Examining Language Identity, Mental Illness, and Disability through Young Adult Literature" with Elsie L. Olan and Wendy Farkas (St. Louis, Missouri).

Presentation this fall accepted for National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) 2017 Annual Convention. "Asking the Tough Questions: Teaching Literature and Nonfiction through Critical Literacy to Recapture Our Voices, Agency, and Mission" with Elsie L. Olan and Wendy Farkas (St. Louis, Missouri).



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Announcements Cont'd.....	2
Specialty Courses.....	2
Contest Winners.....	3





ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

In April, **Dr. Lesley Larkin** presented a lecture titled “What’s Race Got to Do With It? African American Literature and the Ethics of Reading” at Linfield College, in McMinnville, Oregon. This lecture was based on Dr. Larkin’s recent book, *Race and the Literary Encounter: Black Literature from James Weldon Johnson to Percival Everett* (Indiana UP, 2015). In April, Dr. Larkin also attended the annual conference of the Society for the Study of the Multiethnic Literatures of the United States (MELUS), where she presented a paper on Anishinaabe author Gerald Vizenor’s novel, *The Heirs of Columbus*. This paper was part of Dr. Larkin’s developing book project, tentatively titled *Reading in the Postgenomic Age*.

Professor Laura Soldner was recognized recently for her 30 years of service to the university at the Faculty and Staff Recognition Luncheon; in honor of her service, she received a certificate and a gold watch with the university crest.

Dr. Patricia Killelea has two new poems in *Barzakh Magazine* (University at Albany, SUNY), as well as a new video poem and short essay online at Poetry Film Live.

Dr. Jaspal Kaur Singh was granted a one-year sabbatical leave for the 2017-2018 academic year to complete a monograph and a co-authored book. She was also awarded the NMU Faculty Grant to present her research at conferences in India and in South Africa.

On May 18th **Dr. Rob Whalen** will present his editorial work on seventeenth-century writer George Herbert to an international meeting of the Herbert Society at the Sorbonne in Paris. The talk will include his discovery of an unrecognized commentary by Herbert and its connection to a sixteenth-century French edition of Juan de Valdez’s *Considerations*.

Lynn Fay has been selected as Finalist for the ForeWord Book Awards, short story category. Lynn writes under the name of L.E. Kimball. Follow the [link](#) for a picture of the book and information at Wayne State.

Dr. Marek Haltof published an entry (6,500 words) on “Peter Weir” in *Oxford Bibliographies in Cinema and Media Studies*, edited by Krin Gabbard (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), an annotated online bibliography and encyclopedia. His book, *Screening Auschwitz: Wanda Jakubowska’s ‘The Last Stage’ and the Politics of Commemoration* will be published by Northwestern University Press in January 2018. In recent months, he also delivered an invited 120-minute lecture (in English) on *Double Memory: Representation of the Holocaust in Polish Cinema after 1989* at the University of Padova (Universita Degli Studi di Padova) in Italy. In addition, he presented a paper (in Polish) on “The Last Stage (1948): Film/Testimony, Film/Document” and chaired a panel at the Polish Society for Film and Media Studies (PTBFM) Conference in Kraków, Poland.

SUMMER COURSE REMINDER

If you are thinking about taking a summer course but haven't yet enrolled, please consider doing so soon. In the English department, we are offering several courses that still have seats available, including Good Books and Mythology (which both fulfill Liberal Studies, Div. II) and Intro to Film (which fulfills Liberal studies, Div. VI).

Feel free to contact Dr. Lynn Domina at 906-227-1759 or email her at ldomina@nmu.edu if you have any questions about these or other English courses.

FALL SPECIALTY COURSES

EN 402: Nonfiction Writing

Instructor: Rachel May

Description: This class will focus on the Power of the Small Volume. We'll read three essay collections under 100 pages, as well as three chapbooks (small collections that are usually about 18-24 pages each). For the final project, students will write their own chapbook non-fiction collection, building the collection via short exercises and workshop pieces throughout the semester. We'll talk about writing short shorts, lyric essays, hybrid texts (essays with images, essays + fiction), "conventional" essays, nonfiction that incorporates research, and other forms that make up the short books we read. We'll study, and hopefully replicate, the ways that small volumes can pack a powerful punch, and how we might send our chapbooks into the world for various forms of performance and publication, or incorporate them into longer works.

EN570: Major American Novels

Instructor: Amy Hamilton

Description: The idea of the “great American novel” is widespread and often a bit of a cultural joke. But, if pressed, what *are* the greatest American novels? What are the books with which any self-respecting English MA or MFA holder “should” be familiar? This course covers a sampling of major American novels, novels that capture important parts of American history, novels that have influenced other storytellers in significant ways, novels that are brilliant and often beautiful. These books will offer students tools for deepening and broadening their knowledge of American literary traditions. And we will read some wonderful books along the way.



2017 WRITING AWARDS

Barnard Award Winners:

Tyler Penrod for "Finding Family"
Paige Cutler for "[Benzie County](#)"
Abigail Christmas for "[Alzheimer's Disease Prevention](#)"

Houston Award Winners:

Emily Bell for "[Analysis of Vincent van Gogh](#)"
Meagan Bauer for "Emma Watson's Speech to the UN on Gender Equality"

Legler Memorial Poetry Prize Winners:

Brian Czyzyk for "[Diatom](#)"
Maddy Gardiner for "[Sitting Outside a Church Parking Lot, for Fish that Fly on Fridays](#)"

Honorable Mentions:

Kendra Klein for "[In the Middle of a Cold Stone Church](#)"
Olivia Kingery for "[Unbunioned](#)"

VandeZande Fiction Prize:

First Place: Noah Hausmann for "Every Man is a Planet"
Second Place: Maddy Gardiner for "[Reconciliation: Relativity](#)"
Third Place: Drew Boggemes for "[The Space—A Guided Meditation](#)"

Cohodas Literary Prize:

First Place: Emma Schroeder for "[Jusqu'ici Tout Va Bien](#)"
Second Place: Rabah Gabasha for "[Muslim-Jewish Relations in the Dar-al-Islam](#)"
Third Place: Lucy Meyer-Rasmussen for "Persecution of the Poor"

Honorable Mentions:

Rachel Loftus for "[Our Failing Education System](#)"
Hanna Meadows for "[Decline of Civility](#)"

Diversity Common Reader

Citizen, by Claudia Rankine, combines poetry, essay, and visual images into a gut-wrenching treatment of racism as it is experienced in everyday micro-aggressions. The Diversity Common Reader committee sought creative works and essays exploring the concept of "the American citizen," citizenship, race, micro-aggression and/or other topics that reflect the complex issues presented in this reading. Submissions were accepted in two categories: Essay (argument, personal essay, etc.) and Creative (short fiction, poetry, etc.). The finalists were invited to read from their winning piece at the Celebration of Student Research on April 13.

Contest Finalists:

Brian Czyzyk - Creative Winner - "We Skulk the Scene"
Jocelyn Stelzer - Essay Winner - "Too Loud"
Madeline Wiles - Honorable Mention - "Blue or Pink?"

Celebration of Student Scholarship

This scholarship is a student-faculty collaboration to examine, create, and share new knowledge or works in ways commensurate with practices in the discipline. This year's presentation was on April 13th and the following English students presented:

Emily Winnell "Female Agency and Auctoritee in Medieval British Literature"
Alexander Dean Lehto-Clark, Truman Jones, Ian McGhee, Lucy Meyer, Lizzie Michael, and Greg Beamish "Slave Dwelling Overnight in Wisconsin"
Elizabeth Fust "Pardoning Death: Death in Geoffrey Chaucer's 'The Pardoner's Tale' "



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

If you have any ideas to improve the newsletter or want to submit news, events, or an accomplishment to EDEN email us at: eden@nmu.edu

English Department
Northern Michigan University
1401 Presque Isle Ave
Marquette, MI 49855

Phone: 906-227-2711
Fax: 906-227-1096

Located on the third floor of Jamrich
Hall room 3200.
Business hours 8a.m.—5p.m.



JOURNALS

[The Ore Ink Review](#) - NMU's Official Undergraduate Literary Journal

[The North Wind](#) – Northern's independent student newspaper, which publishes every Thursday during the fall and spring semesters.

[Passages North](#) – The annual literary journal sponsored by Northern Michigan University. This publication has published short fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction since 1979.