



EDEN

VISITING WRITER: KAZIM ALI

Thursday, October 8th, at 7:30pm in the Erie Room of NMU's University Center, the acclaimed poet, essayist, fiction writer and translator, Kazim Ali, will be here for our third installment of this year's Visiting Writer's series! HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

His books include several volumes of poetry, including *Sky Ward* (Wesleyan University Press, 2013), winner of the Ohioana Book Award in Poetry, *The Far Mosque*, winner of Alice James Books' New England/New York Award, *The Fortieth Day* (BOA Editions, 2008), and the cross-genre text *Bright Felon: Autobiography and Cities* (Wesleyan University Press, 2009). He has also published a translation of *Water's Footfall* by Sohrab Sepehri (Omnidawn Press, 2011), *Oasis of Now: Selected Poems* by Sohrab Sepehri (BOA Editions, 2013) and (with Libby Murphy) *L'amour* by Marguerite Duras (Open Letter Books, 2013). His novels include *Quinn's Passage* (blazeVox books), named one of "The Best Books of 2005" by *Chronogram* magazine and *The Disappearance of Seth* (Etruscan Press, 2009), and his books of essays include *Orange Alert: Essays on Poetry, Art and the Architecture of Silence* (University of Michigan Press, 2010), *Fasting for Ramadan* (Tupelo Press, 2011).

In addition to co-editing *Jean Valentine: This-World Company* (University of Michigan Press, 2012), he is a contributing editor for *AWP Writers Chronicle* and associate editor of the literary magazine *FIELD* and founding editor of the small press *Nightboat Books*. He is the series co-editor for both *Poets on Poetry* and *Under Discussion*, from the University of Michigan Press.

He is an associate professor of Creative Writing and Comparative Literature at Oberlin College.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

One Book, One Community.....	2
Writing Center	2
Where are they now	2
Faculty Announcements.....	3
MA Student Announcements ..	4
Thesis Proposal Steps	4
Specialty Courses.....	4-5





ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY

The “One Book, One Community” for 2015-2016 is *Mr. Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan with an author visit on October 20th, at 7pm at NMU’s Jamrich Hall, room 1100.

ONLINE TUTORING AND SPACE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NMU WRITING CENTER

Over the summer, we updated our online tutoring system to improve the assistance we can offer NMU students, faculty, and staff. For more information, visit <http://www.nmu.edu/writingcenter/online-tutoring>. We also worked hard all summer to make our space in LRC 111G more functional, inviting, and inclusive. Stop down and see.

“Good work everyone. The quantity and quality of your work is truly impressive.”
-Lynn Domina



ALUMNI—WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Becky Pelky (MFA, poetry, 2015) is a doctoral student at the University of Missouri.

Joshua Brewer (MFA, fiction, 2015) is an Associate Editor at Mother Earth.

Andy Hilleman’s (MFA, fiction, 2012) debut novel, *World, Chase Me Down*, has been acquired by Penguin for publication in early 2017.

“NMU Alumni Associate Producing Female-Driven Feature Film”

LOS ANGELES, CA. (October 13, 2015) - Has anyone ever had a romance like the ones you see in the movies? Is anybody else stepping outside and literally falling onto the love of your life? Oh, that never happens? Okay, good.

2011 NMU Writing Alumni **Stacy Milbourn** is associate producing a new female-driven feature film that is reclaiming the often unrealistic rom-com genre. The film, *MARRYING KINDS*, follows one romantic but realistic couple as they navigate their way through the horrors of spending one weekend at three weddings. Since graduating from NMU, Milbourn has found much success in the world of entertainment. Continuing her education at the prestigious Florida State University’s College of Motion Picture Arts, Milbourn later interned for Bryan Singer’s company, Bad Hat Harry Productions, where she met *MARRYING KINDS*’ writer and director, Nicole Groton. Although this mark’s Groton’s narrative feature film debut, she is just starting the festival circuit for her feature-length documentary, *THE MELTING FAMILY*.

In a business where men dominate both behind and in front of the camera, Milbourn joins a female-led cast and crew that includes producers Crystal Collins and Simone Lapidus. In order to raise their modest budget of \$60,000, the team has put together a crowd-funding campaign on Kickstarter that will launch on October 13th. In exchange for a pledge to the film, donors are offered exciting perks including a one-of-a-kind disposable camera from set, a digital download of the film or even a walk-on role!

The film is a passion project for everyone involved and the amount funded from Kickstarter will go directly to expenses such as casting, production design, meals, and equipment rental. Support a NMU alumni and learn more about the process at www.marryingkinds.com.



Kia Jane Richmond at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival.

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the past five years, **Dr. Kia Jane Richmond** has served as the State Coordinator for the Michigan Council of Teachers of English's Creative Writing Program in conjunction with the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, which is held in Kalamazoo each May. This year, Dr. Richmond supervised twenty high school writers from public and private schools across Michigan during a three-day creative writing workshop clinic with author and English teacher John Jeffire.

Jaspal Kaur Singh, Professor, Department of English, presented a paper at The Association of English Teachers of South Africa Conference, Environment, Race, and Land Use, titled, "From the Individual to the Collective: Acts of Resistance for Social Transformation in Pregs Govender's Love and Courage: A Story of Insubordination" on 15 July 2015 at Rhodes University, South Africa.

She presented an invited lecture to students and faculty members at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), Cape Town, titled, "Gender and Representation in Post-colonial Literature and Culture" on 1 July 2015.

On 24 July 2015, Jaspal conducted a seminar with graduate and post-graduate students at CPUT titled, "Theoretical Frameworks for Masters Studies."

During July and August, **Prof. Gabriel Noah Brahm** completed the 2015 Summer Program on Curricular Development in the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP) at Oxford. Published this October, his most recent essay, "Shakespeare's Fault of Yours? Melzer's Maxim: A Guide to Tentative Omniscience for the Congenitally Hyperfallible" (*Perspectives on Political Science*, 44:1-5, 2015), opposes the dogmas of scientism and corruptions of political correctness with a spirited defense of the central importance of liberal education to human flourishing.

Books, essays, etc. published this last year by faculty members.

The second edition of **Marek Haltof's** *Historical Dictionary of Polish Cinema* was published by Rowman & Littlefield.

Heidi Stevenson's *Sensing, Moving, Thinking, and Writing: Embodied Practices for College Writers* was published by Kendall Hunt.

On September 18, 2015, **Susan Hornbogen**, was notified by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) that the operational grant she wrote on behalf of the Superior String Alliance (SSA) was awarded \$12,000.00. The Superior String Alliance is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organizational that hosts a residential Summer String Camp for Upper Peninsula violin, viola, cello and bass students in grades 4 -12.



THESIS PROPOSAL STEPS

1. Select a thesis director and, in consultation with your director, one thesis reader.
2. Consult the MA Thesis Proposal Guidelines and, working with your thesis director, prepare your 500-word proposal and reading list.
3. Have your thesis director sign the Thesis Application form, indicating that s/he has formally approved the proposal. (Proposals that have not been approved will not be accepted.)
4. Submit the proposal with reading list, along with the Thesis Application Form and Thesis Credit Registration Form to the main English Office, which will pass this material on to the Thesis Application Committee.
5. The Thesis Application Committee then accepts the proposals or, in some cases, might ask for further clarification/revision.

You can find the MA Thesis Application Form, Guidelines for Thesis Proposals and the Thesis Credit Registration Form with the other MA student forms [on the English Department website](#).



MA STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greetings MA Students, New and Continuing:

I hope your fall semester has started out well. Here are some reminders for important MA program-related dates and deadlines for this academic year. If you have any questions or concerns contact Professor Russell Prather either via email at rprather@nmu.edu or during his office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:45 to 4:45 and Tuesdays from 10 to 12 or by appointment. Please go to the links provided to verify deadlines and to get more information on the matters discussed below.

1. Plans of Study. Students new to the program this year, and anyone who has not yet submitted a plan of study, should do so by the end of the current, fall semester. The easiest way to create your plan is to come by my office, Jamrich 3250, and we will work on it together. This doesn't take long, and it gives us a chance to talk. If you've already had a plan of study approved you do not need to do another one, unless you've made a major change—like changing your track(s) or your capstone. Plan of Study forms are available at this [link](#).

2. Thesis Proposal, Application and Thesis Credits. If you plan on writing an MA thesis, this is a reminder that you need to have a thesis proposal submitted a year before you plan to graduate, that is, by the end of fall semester for graduation the following fall, or by the end of winter semester for graduation the following winter. This is not a "soft" deadline: submitting your thesis proposal on time is a program requirement.

3. Thesis Submission Deadlines. Remember that MA theses must be completed, approved by your committee, properly formatted and submitted 30 days prior to graduation. For this fall semester 2015 that means Friday, November 13; for winter 2016 the submission deadline is Friday, April 1; for summer the deadline is Friday, July 8. For more information, see this [link](#).

4. Excellence in Education Awards. All grad students can apply for this summer grant. From the NMU web site: "The Excellence in Education Program is a \$1500 award established to support graduate student research in the summer. The awards are intended to assist graduate students in the conduct of scholarly research and creative works that will enhance their academic experience and professional growth." The deadline for this academic year hasn't been set officially, but it is likely to be Monday, February 1, shortly after the start of winter semester. Start thinking now about what you could propose that would enrich your MA studies. Read (carefully) the application requirements and procedures at this [link](#).

EinE Final Reports: For those who received EinE grants last year, the deadline for filing your final report is October 15. NOTE: If you do not submit your report, you cannot be considered for a second award.

5. Teaching and Graduate Assistantship Applications. If you want to apply for a teaching assistantship for the next academic year (2016/17), the deadline is Monday, February 1, 2016. Please note that if you are in your first year of the MA program and already have an assistantship, you do not need to reapply. Information on application procedures is available at these links: [Graduate Assistantship](#) and [Graduate Checklist](#).

Please go to the links provided to verify deadlines and to get more information on the matters I've just discussed. If you have questions about any of it, send me an email! And/or stop by my office, Jamrich 3250, some time to say hi and let me know how things are going.

Dr. Russell Prather, English MA Program Director

WINTER 2016 SPECIALTY COURSES

EN311Z World Lit in English: Arab

Instructor: Abbady, A

Dr. Abbady is a visiting professor this winter semester.

EN311Z World Lit in English: China: World Literature in Translation

Instructor: Z.Z. Lehmborg zlehmborg@nmu.edu

Course Description: As the course title indicates, this course will focus on Chinese literature in translation, with an emphasis on the 20th century literature and the three major revolutions/movements that influenced the writers of the period - the May 4th Movement, the Great Leap Forward, and the Cultural Revolution. Through close reading of novels, short stories, and poems, we'll examine how the Chinese dealt with common human needs and concerns in a specific time and place, and we'll compare perspectives on such issues as personal identity, national pride, human relationships, individual rights vs. community harmony, and wealth and power, etc. Students will be introduced to the period's major works and influential authors, such as Lu Xun, Lao She, and Ba Jin.

EN350: Materials and Methods of Teaching English

Instructor: Kia Jane Richmond kjrichmon@nmu.edu

Course Description: Secondary Education students with a major or minor in English Education who are planning to student teach in the Fall 2016 term should take this course during the Winter 2016 term. The course is tentatively scheduled for Monday and Wednesday nights from 6-7:40 p.m. In order to be enrolled for EN 350, please email Dr. Richmond with the following information:

- Name and email
- Phone/cell #
- Major/minor
- Accepted to Methods? YES/NO
- Passed MTTC Basic Skills Test/Professional Readiness Examination? YES/NO

WINTER 2016 SPECIALTY COURSES—CONTINUED

EN411Z Topics in World Lit: Postcolonial Caribbean

Instructor: Will Arighi wvarighi@nmu.edu

Course Description: This course will focus on how literature written after 1945 in Haiti, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Dominica has used melodramatic forms to narrate national histories. Melodrama is particularly concerned with the unintended effects of the past on the present, and seeks to narrate the logical necessity of these effects. Looking at Caribbean literature from the past seventy years, we'll question whether the past is always inevitably related to the present, or if it just looks that way from where we are now. We'll start with classic readings in melodramatic theory, and then move to novels and short stories by the likes of Jacques Roumain, Jean Rhys, Julia Alvarez, Rosario Ferré, Edwidge Danticat, Mayra Santos-Febres, and Marlon James, as well as the movie *West Side Story*. Secondary readings will include writings by Édouard Glissant, Sylvia Winter, Mimi Sheller, Michel-Rolph Trouillot, Shalini Puri, and Stuart Hall. This course will pay particular attention to questions of colonialism and imperialism, migration, and gender.

EN495/595 Literature and Photography

Instructor: Russ Prather rprather@nmu.edu

Course Description: Photographic historian Helmut Gernsheim described the timing of the invention of photography in the early nineteenth century as "the greatest mystery in its history." The mystery is why there was such a surge of interest in the medium at that particular historical moment, even though photography's optical and chemical principles had been known already for some time.

This interdisciplinary course begins by grappling with this mystery, considering specifically how Romantic literary and visual sensibilities at the turn of the eighteenth century may have spurred on the nascent medium of photography. The course will then go on to consider not only how photography *was* influenced but how in turn it informed and altered precepts and practices of literature (as well as painting) over the course of the nineteenth century. The seminar will end with an examination of the role of photography in early twentieth century Modernism.

Texts. Readings (poetry and prose, writings by artists, journal entries, letters and notes, contemporary theory and criticism) will be drawn primarily from the course texts listed below, with additional material (selected photographs, paintings, and literary texts) posted on EduCat.

- *Literature and Photography: Interactions 1840-1990: A Critical Anthology*, Jane M. Rabb, ed.
- *Classic Essays on Photography*, Alan Trachtenberg, ed.

Assignments for the course will include short response papers, a longer argument-driven essay, a research-based presentation, and/or a creative project in which students will create a work that combines verbal and visual elements.

EN495W Literary Journalism

Instructor: Cheryl Reed chreed@nmu.edu

Course Description: This course looks at the roots of literary journalism and how aspects of literature can make journalism more readable, and, likewise, how the precision and detail of high-end journalism can make realist literature more engaging. Writers have long crafted nonfiction that incorporates the skills of fiction, utilizing dialogue, character development, scene, setting, and point of view. Likewise, realist fiction writers have long stolen details from the news pages to form the backbones of their stories. This class will analyze nonfiction that transforms traditional news stories into narrative-driven works of literature, from the classics to contemporary writers. Students will explore these styles and techniques in real time as they report and write their own stories in literary journalism style.

EN595: Disabled Shakespeares

Instructor: David Wood dwood@nmu.edu

Course Description: "My W2016 graduate course is entitled "EN 595: Disabled Shakespeares," and takes as its focus Shakespeare's exploration of human variation and ability—of cognitive and physical difference—ranging from impairments of various sorts (i.e., the limping, hunchbacked Richard III) to super-abilities (i.e., Prospero the magician in *The Tempest*). More importantly, the course will explore the specific ways in which Shakespeare depicts stigmatized character difference with an eye on perhaps less obvious examples: habituated alcoholism (1 Henry IV, *Othello*); madness" (*Hamlet*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Twelfth Night*); acquired corporeal mutilations (Titus Andronicus); feigned disability (2 Henry VI); epilepsy (Julius Caesar, *Othello*); and even the inability to bear a male child (Henry VIII).

Our secondary readings for the course will propel us to examine the complex ways in which early modern disability representations intersect with concepts of class, race and ethnicity, and gender and sexuality. Toward that end, our readings and discussions will offer us a thorough introduction to Disability Studies as a burgeoning methodology in its own right, as well as the opportunity to scrutinize the stakes involved in historicizing disability representations within a cultural imaginary (that of early modern England) in many ways much different from our own. Rather than simply deeming such disability representations uniquely antiquated—in the realm of the "monstrous" or the "prodigious," and thus wholly "other"—however, the course will stress continuity and explore how the prehistories of psycho-physiological variation located within the Shakespearean corpus can recalibrate and reinvigorate current discussions and sensibilities about the politics of such human difference as we encounter them in our world today."

IT'S HALLOWEEN! IT'S HALLOWEEN!
THE MOON IS FULL AND BRIGHT
AND WE SHALL SEE WHAT CAN'T BE SEEN
ON ANY OTHER NIGHT.
SKELETONS AND GHOSTS AND GHOULS,
GRINNING GOBLINS FIGHTING DUELS,
WEREWOLVES RISING FROM THEIR TOMBS,
WITCHES ON THEIR MAGIC BROOMS,
IN MASKS AND GOWN
WE HAUNT THE STREET
AND KNOCK ON DOORS
FOR TRICK OR TREAT
TONIGHT WE ARE
THE KING AND QUEEN,
FOR OH TONIGHT
IT'S HALLOWEEN!

Jake Prelutsky



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER



2015-2016 English Department Picnic

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

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



JOURNALS

[The Lightkeeper](#) - NMU's Official Undergraduate Literary Journal

[The North Wind](#) – Northern's independent student newspaper, which publishes every Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. The paper is funded by advertising and the student activity fee. Although independent from the university, the English Department provides a faculty adviser for the newspaper.

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