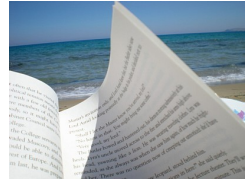


EDEN

English Department Electronic Newsletter



"Reading is a discount ticket to everywhere." — Mary Schmich

April 2010

Announcements

- ◆ Raymond J. Ventre has been appointed as permanent Department of Head of English. Thanks to everyone who attended the department's year-end get-together at Bonanza to celebrate Ray's appointment.
- ◆ President Wong attended the reading of Shakespeare Sonnets by David Wood's class on April 14th and said, "It was the highlight of my week and month. I appreciated the effort of the students and I apologize if my presence added to their anxieties. Please let them know how much I enjoyed the experience."
- ◆ Seats are still available in fall courses at the Graduate level in EN 502 Nonfiction Workshop, EN 530 Major Authors: Alan Paton & J.M. Coetzee and EN 601 Poetry Workshop.
- ◆ Upper level courses for undergraduates have seats open in EN 325 Authorship & Cinema, EN 361 Studies in Poetry, EN 406 Advanced News Writing and EN 430 Major Authors: Alan Paton & J.M. Coetzee. EN 200 English Grammar is also available.

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Accomplishments



Laura Soldner has been accepted by the awards review committee for the International Reading Association College Literacy and Learning Special Interest Group as the recipient of the 2010 Award for Dedication and Commitment to the Field of College Literacy and Learning. The dedication award is given to an elected or appointed officer, committee chair, editor, representative, or outstanding committee member for dedication and commitment to the field of college literacy and learning and for contributing significantly during his or her tenure to the achievement of the purposes of CLL.



David Boe gave a presentation entitled, "Humboldt and the Origins of Generative Grammar" at the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in Baltimore, Maryland in January. He was also recently elected as the next Chair of the NMU Academic Senate, beginning the Fall 2010 semester.



Jen Howard's essay, "Granit Street," appeared in the Spring 2010 issue of the *Apple Valley Review*.

Accomplishments



Lisa Fay Coutley will pursue her PhD in English as a Vice-Presidential Fellow at the University of Utah in the fall of 2010. Her chapbook, *Back Talk*, has been released recently by Articles Press, and she has poetry forthcoming in *Juked* and *DMQ Review*.



Dr. Kia Jane Richmond presented on a panel at the College English Association Convention on March 26 in San Antonio, Texas. The presentation, entitled, "Empowering the English Classroom: Strategies for Enhancing Student Voice," featured NMU English Masters students **Elena Shaw, Amanda Paulus, Jenna Dennings, Brenda Bancroft, Erica Mead, and Adam Gray**, as well as NMU English instructor **Joe Slocum**. The six graduate student presenters received partial funding from the NMU Student Travel Fund. Dr. Richmond also received a Teaching Learning and Advisory Council Conference Grant for her participation in this professional development endeavor.



Russell Thorburn's poem, "She Steps into Her Huge Belly," has been published by a Welsh magazine, *The Seventh Quarry*. Also, his writing client, Pamela Porter, who received a ten-thousand dollar advance for her novel, *Suffer the Children*, has had her book of poetry, *Cathedral*, accepted as a finalist for the National Poetry Series. *Cathedral*, which Thorburn sequenced and edited several years ago, will be published later this year. Thorburn will also be leading a poetry workshop later this summer in Vancouver.



NMU's Writing Center was well-represented at the recent 2010 Conference of the East Central Writing Centers Association in East Lansing. Tutors **Jessica Higginbotham, Katie Hubbard, and William Provost**, Graduate Assistant **Tom Rich**, and Writing Center Director **Dr. Z.Z. Lehmborg** together made two presentations at the conference: "A Modified Approach to Tutor Training: Problem-based Learning," and "Bringing the Writing

Center to the Classroom: Workshop Facilitation in Developmental Writing Courses." Another tutor, **Claire Smith**, helped with the presentations, but was not able to travel to the conference with the group.



Beverly Matherne's English translation of three French poems by David Cheramie will appear in the upcoming issue of *Oberon: A Poetry Magazine*, published by the Oberon Foundation, Inc. in New York City, a non-profit organization supporting the arts and artists. Also, a positive review of her new book, *Lamothe-Cadillac: Sa Jeunesse En France/ Lamothe-Cadillac: His Early Life in France*, written by Brown University scholar Clint Bruce, will appear in *The French Review*, the journal of the American Association of Teachers of French, which has, according to its web site, "the largest circulation of any scholarly journals of French studies in the world." Matherne also won the 2010 Outstanding Writer award from Marquette Arts and Culture. This award is given to a working community artist who has consistently made an impact in artistic discipline. The 14th Annual Arts Awards Reception will be held on Friday, May 14 at 5:30 in the Marquette Arts and Culture Center in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library. Also, text from her new book, *Lamothe-Cadillac: Sa jeunesse en France / Lamothe-Cadillac: His Early Days in France*, has been incorporated in "Dreams of Glory," a musical composition written by Scott Harding, professor of music at Central Michigan University, and students at the Mackinaw Trail Middle School in Cadillac, MI. The composition will be performed on May 27 at the school's 2010 Fine Arts Program Festival: America.

Accomplishments

Graduate T.A. and English Literature M.A. candidate, **Theodore Appert**, has been working on creating an album of original music with NMU grant writer, **Andrew Smentkowski** throughout his time in graduate school. The two have recently finished the album, and had an album release party at Harley's Lounge in the Ramada Inn. The name of the band is Rusty Borealis, and the album is called *Fell Down Pretty*. They have been accepted to play at the Homegrown Music Festival in Duluth, Minnesota, and plan on organizing short, regional tours throughout the summer.



James McCommons has been busy over winter semester writing articles on passenger railroading and promoting his book, *Waiting on a Train: The Embattled Future of Passenger Rail, A Year Spent Riding Across America*. The book was researched and written during a sabbatical in 2008. The book was named by the *Library Journal* as Best Book of 2009, and was a finalist in *Foreword Magazine's* Book of the Year Awards of 2009. In addition to appearances at U.P. libraries, McCommons spoke at Western Illinois University, the Midwest High Speed Rail Association spring meeting in Chicago, University of Chicago, Madison Public Library, and All Aboard Erie in Erie, PA. He also attended the American Society of Journalists and Authors convention in New York City. In May, he will lecture in the Pacific Northwest at the Eugene Public Library, Salem Public Library, Portland State University, and several bookstores. He will be a featured speaker at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento on National Train Day and a panelist at the *RAIL Magazine* Symposium in Long Beach, California. McCommons' publications this year include: the cover story on passenger rail for the May issue of *Saturday Evening Post*; a story accepted by the *Los Angeles Times* travel section focusing on a two-week rail trip to Europe taken over Christmas break and funded by an NMU faculty grant; an essay in the *Huffington Post* on the awarding of high speed rail grants from the federal stimulus package; and

a story accepted by the *Portland Oregonian* on riding the Grand Canyon Railway. He was also interviewed by Arthur Frommer on his travel show, and the book was also featured in Frommer's syndicated newspaper column. He was interviewed by *Time* magazine for an upcoming cover story on high speed rail, and also by the *Orlando Sentinel*, regarding Florida's proposed bullet train. McCommons was also featured in an op/ed piece in the *Times-Observer* in Raleigh, NC.

Congratulations to:



Catherine Terwilliger on receiving tenure.



David Wood on receiving tenure and being promoted to Associate Professor.



Katie Hanson, Jaspal Singh, and Rob Whalen on promotion to Full Professor.



John Smolens on being named the Peter White Scholar for 2010-2011.

Adam Cheney, who received a TA-ship from UT Dallas.

Accomplishments

All ten of the English graduate students applying for Excellence in Education Research Grants have received awards this year:

Katherine Buel
Sigurd the Volsung

Tim Clancy
Tracking to Hemingway's "Snows of Kilimanjaro"

Justin Daugherty
Geographical/Historical Research for Novel

Elizabeth Faucett
Defining Violence: Henry David Thoreau

Richard Hackler
Research for MA Thesis

Christopher Linforth
Novel-in-progress: The Persistence of Vision

Krista Mann
Coastal Highway: Upside Down and Inside Out

Erica Mead
Two-Spirit Identities and "Sacred" Places in the Southwest

Gillian Podkomorka
Women of the North Woods Wilderness

Jason Schrontz
The Collected Writings of Karin Prakneez: A Novel

Attention English Department faculty, staff, and students: If you have anything to add to EDEN (Announcements, Achievements, etc.) or any suggestions on how to make the newsletter better, please e-mail editor Stacy Milbourn at eden@nmu.edu.

Special Departmental Positions in English

Thanks to all for your past service, willingness to continue, and those of you who are entering new positions this fall.



Katie Hanson
Editor-in-Chief of *Passages North*



Jen Howard
Director of the Visiting Writer's Program



Paul Lehmborg
Program Director of MFA in English



Z.Z. Lehmborg
Director of the Writing Center



Elizabeth Monske
Assistant Department Head



Laura Soldner
Director of Composition



David Wood
Director of English Graduate Programs

Writing Contest Results

Barnard Award

Winner: Jacqueline Carroll for her essay, "Oh Me, Oh Michelangelo."

Finalists: Naysa Anderson for "Sooner" and Stacie Davidson for "Sunday-Best."

Houston Award

Winner: Reannon Dykehouse for her essay, "Irishmen."

Finalists: Hannah Cotton for "Tuesday Evening" and Shauna Neshek for "American Untouchables."

Legler Memorial Poetry Prize

Winner: Hannah Schug for "Limbo is a Bus Station."

1st Runner Up: Courtney DePottey for an untitled poem

2nd Runner Up: Jeremy Vavrik for "Walking Home"

3rd Runner Up: Jessica Parker for "Fireflies."

VandeZande Fiction Prize

Winner: Jessica Parker for "An *Is* to a *Was*."

Finalists: Maxwell Peterson for "Fisgard and the Boy," Stacy Milbourn for "Snow," Tracy Pickering for "A Roving, Solitary Thing," Rachel Wendels for "Moldy Milk," and Cameron Witbeck for "The Rifle Line."

Cohodas Literary Prize

Winner: Tracy Pickering for her essay, "The Romani."

2nd Place: Kylynn Perdue-Bronson for "Chain of Evidence."

3rd Place: Hailey Heikkinen for "Abandon Ship Before It's Too Late and All This Love I Have will Turn to Hate."

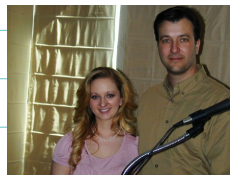
Winning entries can be read on the English Dept website at www.nmu.edu/english.



Reannon Dykehouse



Hannah Schug



Jessica Parker



L to R: Maxwell Peterson, Stacy Milbourn, Tracy Pickering, Rachel Wendels, Cameron Witbeck



Tracy Pickering



Kylynn Perdue-Bronson



Hailey Heikkinen