



# EDEN

English Department Electronic Newsletter



"If one cannot enjoy reading a book over and over again, there is no use in reading it at all." -Oscar Wilde

April 2011

## Announcements

- ◆ The Michigan Association of Timbermen are recruiting student authors to contribute to their periodical, *Timber Talk*. The articles should be focused on issues relevant to the Forest Products Industry. If you are interested, please contact the Newberry, MI office at 906-293-3236 and ask for MaLissa or Kris or visit the website at [www.timbermens.org](http://www.timbermens.org).
- ◆ There's still time to sign up for summer workshops with visiting writers. See page 7 for details.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Announcements.....	1
Accomplishments.....	1-5
Good Luck to Katie Hanson.....	6
Summer Workshops.....	7

## Accomplishments



**Cate Terwilliger** has been awarded a highly competitive fellowship to attend the Knight Digital Media Center at the University of California-Berkeley. The center trains traditional mid-career journalists— and occasionally, journalism educators— in multimedia reporting skills. Terwilliger was one of 20 fellows selected from a pool of more than 160 applicants. She will participate in the Knight training in May, and then embark on a year-long sabbatical, during which she plans to produce multimedia journalism as a freelancer and for the Colorado Springs Independent.



**James McCommons** has been awarded the Peter White Scholar Award for 2011-2012 to research and write a nonfiction, narrative book on the professional life of George Shiras III, the world's first wildlife photographer, the father of the Migratory Bird Act, and a seminal figure in the progressive conservation movement of the early 20th century.

**Austin Hummell's** poem, "Before Snook Fishing," is in the Everyman's Library collection called *The Art of Angling: Poems About Fishing*, just released from Knopf. His poem, "Here's the Thing," appears in the literary journal, *32 Poems*, and "Bandon Dunes," "Shut the Door. Have a Seat," "Black Bass," and "The Emperor of Scent" appear in *Jelly Bucket*, the literary magazine of Eastern Kentucky University.



**Kia Richmond** presented "Graphic Representation in English Education and First-Year Composition" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication's annual convention in Atlanta on April 8th. She also served as the coordinator of the Creative Writing program for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, which will be held in Kalamazoo in May. Richmond will also present a paper titled "Reflections and Transformations: Applications of Professional Development on the English Education Classroom" at the Conference on English Education's "Rediscovering Praxis: Making Connections in English Teacher Education" convention in New York City in June. Richmond and students in her EN 350 class also visited Gwinn High School and North Star Academy on April 13 and 15 to discuss the profession of teaching English with secondary students at both schools. Thanks to the academic service learning grant from MEEMIC and NMU's ASL Advisory Board, they distributed books and movies relating to teaching English to approximately 40 students.

# Accomplishments

**Jason Shrontz** has accepted an offer to do his PhD at the University of Rhode Island. Shrontz is currently a Teaching Fellow in the English Department.

Graduating senior, **Rebecca Kahl**, has been conditionally accepted to Northern Michigan University's MA program. She plans to focus on Literature and Pedagogy.

Graduating senior, **Amelia Brubaker**, is attending graduate school to pursue an MFA in Poetry. She received offers from Miami University, University of Idaho, and Ohio University with teaching assistantships, was accepted into Emerson College, and was waitlisted at Oregon State University and Indiana University-Bloomington. Brubaker will be attending the University of Idaho with a teaching assistantship and the Nixon scholarship in the fall.

A student of **Lauren Vanderlind's** had her "This I Believe" essay published online. The essay can be viewed here: [thisibelieve.org/essay/89072/](http://thisibelieve.org/essay/89072/).

**Jennifer Bennon**, a 2008 graduate of the MFA program at NMU, has had her novel, which she wrote for her thesis, published as an e-book. The novel, *Murder is a Bad Day to Have a Baby*, is available at Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. **Katie Hanson** was her thesis chair and **John Smolens** and **Jennifer Howard** were on her thesis committee.

**Cynthia Brandon-Slocum's** essay, "Dear Jack, Ted, Jim or Some Other One-Syllable Name" will be published in *River Teeth* in the fall.

**Joe Slocum** has been offered a teaching assistantship to earn his MFA at Eastern Washington University.

MA Graduate, **Daniel Lawson**, has been hired at Central College in Pella, Iowa as an Assistant Professor and Director of the Writing Center.

The following graduate students have been awarded Excellence in Education awards for summer 2011: **Brooke Boulton, Andrew Hilleman, Katherine Buel, Laura Mead, Jian Sha, Emily Engelhard, Cameron Mahoney, Virginia Schminke-Yaussy, Darrin Moir, Cameron Witbeck, Luke Thominet, Jordan Meyers** and **Justin Daugherty**,

Ten English graduate students, along with their professor, **Elizabeth Monske**, presented at the 42nd Annual College English Association Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida from March 31-April 2. Participants would like to thank the faculty and staff in the English Department, who both encouraged students to take advantage of this kind of professional development opportunity, and provided funding for the trip. The following presentations were given at the conference: "Motivating Students in the English Classroom" by **Amanda Paulus**, which discussed the "American Dream" and using the future to motivate students; "Motivation Through Evaluation and Using Feedback to Inspire" by **Jack Van Treese; Danielle Khoury** explained how to use a formula for motivation and **Gillian Podkomorka** examined how to connect realistic goals to realistic fortunes for the developmental student; "The Case for Academic Service Learning" by **Elizabeth Monske**, which encouraged professors to plant the seed of ASL by encouraging its use to graduate students; **Jodi Lampi** discussed effective methods for assessment and evaluation of ASL projects and **Emily Aho** argued for the advantages of ASL connections between college and either secondary or elementary students; "PSAs, Creative Writing, and *Jersey Shore: The Fortune of Self-Discovery*" by **Cameron Contois**, which advocated for the use of *Jersey Shore* to promote student voice; **Harger Boal** discussed practical post-process philosophy; **Colin Clancy** shared useful writing prompts to encourage voice and versatility in student writing; and **Erica Mead** presented public service announcements (PSAs) as an alternative to the traditional persuasive research paper.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The English Faculty who were recognized for their service at NMU at the NMU Faculty and Staff Luncheon on April 19th were:



20 Years: **Beverly Matherne**



15 Years: **John Smolens**



10 Years: **David Boe, Jaspal Singh, Marek Haltof**

**Ren VanderLind**: "Freedom as Resistance: William Blake's 'Visions of the Daughters of Albion,'" Graduate Student, Faculty Advisor: **Russ Prather**

**Melissa Seelye**: "Return to the Blogosphere: A Closer Look at Women Blogging in Turkey," Undergraduate Student, Faculty Advisor: **Bronwyn Mills**

**Brooke Boulton**: "Poetry Concerning Female Suicide in the Kalevala," Graduate Student

**Teresa Sherman-Jones**: "Literary Representations of Animals and Animal Treatment in British Enlightenment and Romanticism," Graduate Student, Faculty Advisor: **Russ Prather**

The following students presented at the Celebration of Student Research, Creative Works, and Academic Service Learning:

**Emily Engelhard**: Personal Essay, "Snowy Woods," Graduate Student, Faculty Advisor: **Paul Lehmborg**

**Cameron Witbeck**: Poetry, "The Michigan Dogman Series," Graduate Student, Faculty Advisor: **Austin Hummell**

**Virginia Schminke-Yaussy**: "Using VARK to Promote Multimodality in First-Year Composition," Graduate Student, Faculty Advisor: **Laura Soldner**

**Shauna Neshek**: "Dress Up," Undergraduate Student, Faculty Advisor: **Joseph Janca**

**Tom Rich**: "The Apocalypse of Boon: A Comparison of the Book of Daniel and Faulkner's *The Bear*," Graduate Student, Faculty Advisor: **Leslie Larkin**

**Amanda Paulus, Gillian Podkomorka, and Danielle Khoury**: "Motivating Developmental College Students through Goal Setting: What is My American Dream?," Graduate Students, Faculty Advisor: **Laura Soldner**

**Jack Van Treese**: "Motivation through Evaluation: Using Feedback to Inspire," Graduate Student, Faculty Advisor: **Elizabeth Monske**

**Margaret Newberry**: "Graduating from Gaga," Undergraduate Student, Faculty Advisor: **Ray Ventre**

**Richard Hackler**: "The Ballad of Roy Buck," Graduate Student, Faculty Advisor: **Paul Lehmborg**

**Grace Makley**: "Hoofbeats: A Short Story," Undergraduate Student, Faculty Advisor: **Ray Ventre**

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Recent graduates of the MA English program, **Gillian Podkomorka, Amanda Paulus, Erica Mead,** and **Krysthol Kauffman,** along with **Laura Soldner,** had their article, "In Their

Own Words: Making Connections Through Character Quotes," accepted for publication in Volume 37, 2011 of the *Journal of College Literacy and Learning*, a peer-reviewed publication for college and university literacy educators. In the article, the authors describe NMU's One Book, One Community common-read program and explain how the character quotes strategy not only increased students' comprehension and engagement, but also enabled students to make significant connections to the chosen text.



**Beverly Matherne's** "The Poet's Vision," a prose poem in ten segments, has been accepted for publication in the anthology *100,000 Poems for Change*. She is doing a reading tour in France and Wales in May and June

Congratulations to:



**Elizabeth Monske** on receiving tenure and being promoted to Associate Professor



**Russ Prather** on receiving tenure and being promoted to Associate Professor, and being awarded a Reassigned Time Award for fall



**Jennifer Howard** on receiving continuing status



**Amy Hamilton, Jim McCommons,** and **Jaspal Singh** on receiving Reassigned Time Awards for fall semester. These awards will

provide them with four credits of release time to work on research and book projects

The winners of this year's writing contests are:

Barnard (EN 111) Prize: **Kristy Schwiderson** for "A Symbol of Love; Past, Present, and Future"

Barnard Finalists: **Amanda Hardy** for "One Lightning Symphony" and **Grace Larkin** for "With Angelic Help"

Houston (EN 211) Prize: **A. Michael Jacoby** for "A Nightingale Cries"

Houston Finalists: **Josey Bonini-Aalto** for "Reflections of War's Brutish Reality in *Johnny Got His Gun*" and **Kimmie Conrad** for "The Farm"

Legler Poetry Prize: **Maxwell Peterson** for "Morning Deer"

Legler Finalists: **Rachel Hare** for "Old Tenants," **Doug Turnbull** for "Johnny Hurt," **Ian Girad** for "(a Tanka)," and **Paige Anteau** for "Under the Influence of Calm"

VandeZande Fiction Prize: **Reannon Dykehouse** for "Las Abuelas"

VandeZande Finalists: **Kiah Watson** for "After the Probe," **Abbegail Hoye** for "They've Disappeared," **Rachel Dunne** for "An Adventure," **Rachel Wendels** for "Third Time's a Charm," and **Jessica Krueger** for "For Whom the Bell Tolls"

Cohodas Literary Prize: **Shauna Neshek**

Cohodas Finalists: **Kassondra Hendricks** and **Benjamin Scheelk**

The winning essays will be published on the English Dept's website in the near future.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Heidi Stevenson** will be working with one of her EN 111 students, **Jill Willman**, to turn one of her EN 111 papers into a bill, which will propose the gathering and release of non-identifying parental medical information in closed adoptions. Jill has located a U.S. Representative interested in presenting the bill to Congress on September 8, 2011. **Kia Jane Richmond, Dr. Heidi Stevenson**, Writing Center graduate assistant **Jack Van Treese**, and Writing Center tutor **Matthew Walther** attended the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Atlanta, GA from April 6-10. They gathered information and ideas to inform the Basic Composition Workshop Tutoring Initiative, in which Writing Center tutors have been helping facilitate workshops in EN 090 courses. They will be presenting their ideas in a colloquium for Writing Center tutors and EN 090 instructors during Finals Week.

**Cameron Mahoney** will present his paper, "We Are Here on Earth to Fart Around: Vonnegut, Technology, and Anthropology" at the 2011 American Literature Association in Boston for the Kurt Vonnegut Society on May 26th.

The first Study Abroad – Introduction to Thailand program has turned out to be one of NMU's most successful to date in attracting student enrollment. A group of 22 NMU faculty, faculty spouses and students will tour Thailand with the cooperation of NMU partner institutions there from May 9-30. According to the International Programs Office, this ties us with the Nursing Department for the largest group sent abroad so far.

English graduate students enjoyed a special seminar with internationally famous scholar and public intellectual, **Paul Hollander**. Thanks to the generosity of the department, they also took him out to lunch.



## Good luck, Katie Hanson!


After thirteen years of exemplary teaching, serving as editor-in-chief of *Passages North* literary magazine, and receiving tenure and full professor, Katie Hanson is leaving the Department of English.

While with us, she has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in fiction, nonfiction, and literature. In 2010, she received NMU's Excellence in Teaching Award, a tribute to her ongoing devotion to students, a major component of her teaching. In addition, she is undoubtedly the most active thesis director and reader in the department, having served on over 40 theses during her tenure here.

Despite all the time she has spent on her teaching and service, she has also published widely, including a book of short stories, *Narrow Beams*, from Carnegie Mellon Press, and numerous short stories at prestigious magazines and reviews such as *North American Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Shenandoah*, *Mississippi Review*, *Florida Review* and elsewhere. She has also won the Prairie Schooner fiction prize and the Florida Review first prize in creative nonfiction.

Many here have grown close to Katie and will certainly miss her. We wish her the very best in her next chapter.






## Summer Workshops and Visiting Writers

EN 495W: The Brutal Languages of Love: Writing Sex and Love into Contemporary Fiction, taught by Roxane Gay, June 13-23. Roxane Gay's writing appears or is forthcoming in *Black Warrior Review*, *Mid-American Review*, *Cream City Review*, *Annalemma*, *McSweeney's* (online), and others. She is the co-editor of *PANK*, an assistant professor of English at Eastern Illinois University, and can be found at <http://www.roxanegay.com>. Her first collection, *Ayiti*, will be released in 2011.

EN 495W: Writing Nonfiction: Structure, Voice and Scene, taught by Greg Breining, May 16-26. Greg Breining's articles and essays about travel, science, and nature have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Audubon*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Islands*, and many other publications. He's traveled to the Gobi Desert to find the Przewalski's horse, the arctic plains of Ellesmere Island to count musk ox and wolves, and the caverns of southern Minnesota where an iconoclastic spelunker uses explosives to discover and explore new caves. His books about travel and the natural world include *Super Volcano*, the story of the active volcano beneath Yellowstone that could wipe out a sixth of the world's population, and *Wild Shore*, an account of two seasons kayaking around Lake Superior. His newest book, *Paddle North: Canoeing the Boundary Waters-Quetico Wilderness*, with photographer Layne Kennedy, was published this fall by Minnesota Historical Society Press.



EN 495W: The Ecstasy of Influence: An Investigation through Parody, Imitation, & Homage, taught by Martha Silano, July 5-14. Martha Silano is the author of three books of poetry-*Blue Positive*, *What the Truth Tastes Like*, and *The Little Office of the Immaculate Conception*, chosen by Campbell McGrath as the winner of the 2010 Saturnalia Books Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared in many places, including *Paris Review*, *AGNI*, *American Poetry Review*, and *The Best American Poetry 2009*. Martha has been awarded fellowships from the University of Arizona Poetry Center, the Millay Colony for the Arts, Seattle Arts Commission, Washington State Artist Trust, and Seattle 4Culture. She teaches composition and creative writing at Bellevue College, near her home in Seattle, Washington.

Contact Jen Howard at [jenhowar@nmu.edu](mailto:jenhowar@nmu.edu) for more information.