



# EDEN

English Department Electronic Newsletter



"A book must be an ice-axe to break the seas frozen inside our soul." ~Franz Kafka

December 2010

## Announcements

- ◆ There are still openings in several graduate courses. Please sign up for winter courses soon, if you have not done so already.
- ◆ The MA Committee is seeking feedback from graduate students about courses for the 2011-2012 school year, specifically suggestions for major authors, genres, and/or special topics you would like to see offered. Any graduate students who have suggestions or feedback for potential classes should submit them to Josh Anderson at [josander@nmu.edu](mailto:josander@nmu.edu) by January 14, 2011.
- ◆ The Summer 2011 visiting writers have been announced. They are: journalist Greg Breining ([www.gregbreining.com](http://www.gregbreining.com)) May 16-26, fiction writer Roxane Gay ([www.roxanegay.com](http://www.roxanegay.com)) June 13-23, and poet Martha Silanos ([bluepositive.blogspot.com](http://bluepositive.blogspot.com)) July 5-15. More information on the courses will be announced over the next couple months.

## Accomplishments



**Marek Haltof** published an essay in Polish on "The Legacy of Krzysztof Kieslowski in Post-Communist Poland" in *Postscriptum Polonistyczne* Vol. 1, No. 5 (2010): 89-104. The journal is peer-reviewed and published by the University of Silesia in Katowice.



Congratulations to **David Wood** on receiving the 2010 NMU Excellence in Teaching Award. Wood continues to serve as the Interim Director of the NMU Honors Program and has a presentation forthcoming at the 2011 meetings of the Renaissance Society of America and the Shakespeare Association of America, the latter in a seminar chaired by Stephen Greenblatt of Harvard University.



**John Smolens** received the Michigan Author of the Year Award at the Michigan Library Association's annual conference in Traverse City.

**Austin Hummell** has six poems in the September issue of *Mipoesias* (also available online), and one poem in the Fall issue of *Third Coast*.



**James McCommons** continues to lecture and do book signings for his non-fiction narrative, *Waiting on a Train* released in November 2009 by Chelsea Green. In early November, he spoke at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, at "The Future of the Midwest Transportation Symposium." He also appeared on Peoria's morning talk radio program on WMBD and was quoted in an article in the *State Journal Register* in Springfield. McCommons also spoke at the Peter White Public Library to the Central Upper Peninsula Group of the Sierra Club. In early December, McCommons will speak at Michigan Technological University for the "History and Future of Passenger Rail Event." He also appeared on two NPR programs: "At Issue with Ben Merens," a call-in/talk show on Wisconsin Public Radio and "Maryland in Motion" on WYPR in Baltimore. McCommons also published an opinion column in the *Huffington Post* on Ohio's and Wisconsin's move to return \$1.2 billion in high speed rail grants to the federal government.

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# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Cameron Witbeck's** poem, "Abracadabra," was accepted for the Fall 2010 issue of *Cream City Review*.



**Amy Hamilton** presented on two roundtables at the Western Literature Association Conference in Prescott, Arizona. The presentations were titled "Revisiting 'Letting Go Our Grand Obsessions': 21st-Century Visions, Challenges, and Possibilities" and "Graduate Student Professionalization: Time Management as a Graduate Student and Junior Faculty Member." She was also elected to serve a three-year term on the Western American Literature Executive Council.



Six scenes from **Russell Thorburn's** novel, *Desert Moon*, will appear next year in *Parting Gifts* and his short story, "The General," is forthcoming in the next issue. His poem, "Hearts as Misfits," was recently published in *Cimarron Review*.



**Lesley Larkin** delivered a paper entitled "Misplacing Identification in the American Literature Classroom" at the 2010 Race and Pedagogy Conference at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. She also delivered a paper, "Reading Responsibility in Ana Castillo's 'The Mixquiahuala Letters'" at the 2010 Conference of the Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States at the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Both projects were developed as part of Larkin's on-going book project, *Reading Race and Twentieth-Century African American Literature*, which has been supported by NMU Reassigned Time Awards for Winter 2010, Fall 2010, and Winter 2011.



**Jaspal Singh** is co-editor of the anthology, *Who We Are Now: Storying Michigan Indigenes*, which is forthcoming by Northern Michigan University Press in 2011. Her peer-reviewed essay, "South African Indian Writing and Conditions of Diaspora in Ahmed Essop's Fiction," has been accepted for publication. Singh will also present "Images of Sikh 'Tortured Bodies' and the Construction of Sikh Solidarity and Identity within the Indian Nation-state and the Diaspora" at the Contemporary Theory Conference at the University of Punjab this month.



As a part of her sabbatical this term, **Kia Jane Richmond**, President of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English, organized and directed a 2010 MCTE Fall Conference in Lansing on October 29. Over 200 English teachers from across Michigan gathered at this professional development conference titled "Focusing the Kaleidoscope: Reimagining English Language Arts in Michigan." The conference featured speakers Pam Munoz Ryan, Carol Glynn, and Debbie Reese, as well as others. Undergraduate student, **Richard Chiamulera** presented "Lessons from Ecuador: Teaching Literacy Skills to Speakers of Languages Other than English," instructor **Robert DeChambeau** presented "Court Cases in the College Composition Classroom: The Real Deal," and graduate student, Amanda Paulus, presented "Re-Writing the Classics—The Twenty Minute Play." **Tom Hyslop** and **Mark Smith** also attended the conference, and graduate students **David Neumann** and **JoeyLynn Selling** helped prepare the registration and reception areas. The MCTE Fall Conference program's cover art was designed by Art Education student, Alexandra Sawyer. Richmond also presented "Transforming Teaching Through Empathy: Rethinking Dispositions in English Education" at the National Conference of Teachers of English annual convention in Orlando, Florida. She also chaired the Edwin M. Hopkins Award for NCTE and presented the award to Nicole Sieben and Laraine Wallowitz for their March 2009 *English Journal* article. Richmond also received the 2010 NCTE Affiliate Excellence Award for her work as the President of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English.

Undergraduate student, **Hannah Rolfe**, has had her "This I Believe" essay selected for the NPR website. Her essay can be read at the following link:

<http://www.thisibelieve.org/essay/87069/>.

Former MA student, **Luke Marsy**, will start as an adjunct instructor at Grand Rapids Community College in Winter 2011.

**Candra Gill**, MA Fall 02, was accepted into a graduate program in Tailored MSI in the School of Information at University of Michigan.

# Introduction to Thailand: Short Term Study Abroad for Summer 2011

As part of the 2 credit EN 495/595: Introduction to Thailand course, EN 495W/595W, or PS 495, students will travel to Thailand for three weeks in May 2011.

Students will have see the bustling city of Bangkok in the south and ancient Silk Road city, Chiang Mai. Travelers will also visit national parks, beaches, floating and night markets, the Royal City, Buddhist temples, ancient Khmer ruins, hill tribe and crafts villages, and more, while learning about Siamese and Southeast Asian history, politics, economics, culture, and arts.

The only graded written requirement is a 15-20 page paper based on the experiences in Thailand, which will be due after the trip.

The cost of the trip is regular NMU tuition for one semester plus program fee, which will be kept under \$3,000 for everything. Register for Winter 2011, and get flat rate tuition (essentially free between 12-18 total credit hours).

For more information, contact Peter Goodrich, English, at 227-1635 or [pgoodric@nmu.edu](mailto:pgoodric@nmu.edu), William Ball, Political Science, at 227-1821 or [wball@nmu.edu](mailto:wball@nmu.edu), or Susan Morgan, International Programs, at 227-2530 or [smorgan@nmu.edu](mailto:smorgan@nmu.edu).

