



Table of Contents	
Announcements.....	1-2
Accomplishments.....	3-4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Course Openings

In addition to several seats in the EN111 and 211 courses, there are still seats available in the EN215, EN300, and EN302 creative writing courses. There are also several seats open in the following upper division and graduate courses, most notably:

- EN411Z Topics in World Literature: Turkish Monday Evenings (Jaspal Singh)
- EN490 Seminar; Literature of the Reformation Tuesday Evenings (Rob Whalen)
- EN490 Seminar: Southwest Borderlands Literature Wednesday Evenings (Amy Hamilton)

- EN560 Literary Movement: Turkish Literature Monday Evenings (Jaspal Singh)
- EN590 Seminar; Literature of the Reformation Tuesday Evenings (Rob Whalen)
- EN570 Seminar: Southwest Borderlands Literature Wednesday Evenings (Amy Hamilton)

Writing Across the Peninsula (WAP) Conference

The second annual Writing Across the Peninsula (WAP) Conference, “Shifting Shores: Revision at the Water’s Edge,” was held at Northern Michigan University on Thursday, October 27 and Friday, October 28. Over 170 individuals attended this conference, including 25 high school educators and 20 undergraduates.

This year’s conference featured a kickoff reception and open mic by the Graduate Writers’ Association on Thursday evening and a full-day conference on Friday featuring John Ruszkiewicz, Bedford/St. Martin’s author of *How to Write Anything* (the freshmen composition text

used at NMU) and *Everything’s an Argument*. The conference also offered attendees two plenary sessions and three concurrent break-out sessions with presenters from Central Michigan University, Michigan Technological University, Finlandia University, Bay College, Bay Mills Community College, Northern Michigan University, Calumet High School, and Hancock High School. A copy of the program can be found at the WAP website.

Next year’s WAP conference, “Bridging Boundaries,” will be held on October 18 and 19, 2012 at Lake Superior State University



in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. For more information, including Calls for Proposals, please consult the WAP website at writingacrossthepeninsula.weebly.com in the future.

See thank-you on page 2.

LITERARY JOURNAL NEWS

Passages North has WoW posts from three more of our talented grad students. **Lynn Fay (under her writing name L. E. Kimball), Luke Thominet, and Justin Daugherty.**

They can be found on the Passages North website: www.passagesnorth.com



Thank you financial supporters for helping with the Writing Across the Peninsula 2011 Conference!

- Bedford/St. Martin's Publishers for sponsoring the Keynote speaker and Friday's lunch buffet
- Karen Johnson, Bedford/St. Martin's, Northern Michigan University Representative for her supporting two years' facilitation of Writing Across the Peninsula (WAP) Conferences
- Northern Michigan University Wildcat Innovation Fund Grant for financing Scholarships for high school teachers and undergraduate students
- Northern Michigan University Department of English, especially Dr. Raymond Ventre, Department Head for his constant support, for sponsoring Thursday evening's reception, printing, and t-shirts for organizers and volunteers
- Northern Michigan University Bookstore for donating folders and pens, as well as Bookstore discount coupons
- Michigan Technological University's College of Arts and Sciences for sponsoring Friday's continental breakfast
- Lake Superior State University's English Department, School of Education, and Shouldice Library for sponsoring the Friday morning coffee and cookie break
- NMU School of Education for sponsoring the Afternoon Beverage Break
- Graduate Writers Association for organizing the Thursday Open Mic Opportunities

We would also like to sincerely thank the many past and present graduate students who have assisted and volunteered their time to make the WAP 2011 Conference possible. Without their help, we would certainly have had our hands full. These graduate students created the Call for Proposals and conference theme, reviewed proposals, planned food and hotel arrangements, wrote a grant, maintained the website, drafted the program, and read scholarship applications. They also moderated panels, worked the Check-in/Welcome Table, and were ambassadors for our campus.

Alcha Bufe	Ren VanderLind	Jack VanTreese	Harger Boal
Katherine Buel	Caitlin Morski	Brandon Peters	Teresa Sherman-Jones
Lizz Kepsel	Lynn Fay	Melody McNeill	Rebecca Miner (MTU)
Jodi Lampi	Chanomi Maxwell-Parish		Meredith Neuman
Erica Mead	Zarah Moeggenberg	Alex Gubbins	Jian Sha
Laura Mead	Danielle Khoury	Gillian Podkomorka	Alex Belz
Linda Sirois	Cameron Witbeck	Luke Thominet	Cameron Mahoney

Specifically, we would like to acknowledge **Virginia Schminke-Yaussy** and **Olivia Olson** who were our Graduate Student Conference Chairs; they were willing to work tirelessly, delegated and led their peers in many of the aforementioned activities, as well as contacted the keynote speaker, presenters, and participants.

We would also like to thank **Darrin Moir** for his artwork, not only for the poster, but for the Writing Across the Peninsula logo that will be used for years to come.

We would also like to thank our colleagues from the department who attended the conference and supported our students who presented.

Again thank you so much!

Sincerely, *Laura Soldner and Liz Monske* (Faculty Conference Co-Chairs)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

John Smolens' new novel, *The Schoolmaster's Daughter*, was published in September by Pegasus Books, New York. His article, "Get Your Story Started," is the lead story in the December issue of *The Writer* magazine.

Matt Frank's new nonfiction book, *Pot Farm* (The University of Nebraska Press/Bison Books), is now available for pre-order on the press website (<http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Pot-Farm,674936.aspx>) and on Amazon. The book is a behind-the-scenes expose of a Northern California medical marijuana farm.

Additionally, Matt's book *Barolo* has gone into its second printing in paperback, and will include links to Italian Piemontese recipes. That addition is available for preorder here:

<http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Barolo,674189.aspx>



On November 19, 2011, at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention in Chicago, Illinois, Kia Jane Richmond (Associate Professor) gave a presentation entitled 'Connecting Experiences: Words and Images' on a panel entitled "Writing Our Inquiry" sponsored by the CEE Commission on Writing Teacher Education. Dr. Richmond also attended the NCTE Affiliate Breakfast, where she accepted an Affiliate Website Award on behalf of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English; Dr. Richmond currently serves as Past President of MCTE.



Thanks to funding from NMU, Dr. Richmond also attended a two-day workshop in Chicago, sponsored by the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of NCTE (ALAN), focused on teaching young adult literature. Dr. Richmond also penned the Foreword to the recently published book *Tend Your Garden: Nurturing Motivation in Young Adolescent Writers* by Mary Anna Kruch (Equinox, 2011).

Professor James McCommons was awarded a \$500 travel grant from Bedford/St Martins Publishing. The award is designed to help journalism educators undertake professional development at a mass communication & journalism conference. McCommons will use the money to attend the 28th Annual ACP National College Journalism Convention in Seattle in March 2012 where he'll be teaching breakout sessions to collegiate journalists.

Professor McCommons appeared and was quoted in an article entitled "Ten Things Amtrak Won't Tell You" in the November edition of *Smart Money* magazine, a publication of the Wall Street Journal Company. The article mentioned his 2009 book, "Waiting on a Train."

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In mid-October, 24 students toured Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin home and school in Spring Green, Wisconsin. The trip was part of the course Modernism: Literature, Art and Architecture, partly inspired by the John Lautner: A Life in Architecture exhibition at the DeVos Art Museum, which closed in November. The special topics course was offered through the Department of English and the School of Art and Design. It was co-taught by Dr. Russell Prather (English) and Melissa Matuscak, DeVos Art Museum curator. At Taliesin (see photo), the students toured Frank Lloyd Wright's house and Wright's school where Marquette native and NMU alumnus John Lautner studied architecture in the 1930s. The students also visited Wright's Johnson Wax building in Racine, Wisconsin and spent two days in Chicago touring architectural landmarks with the Chicago Architecture Foundation and at the Art Institute of Chicago.



Robert Whalen unveiled his forthcoming annotated edition of George Herbert's poems, *The Digital Temple*, at an international meeting of the George Herbert Society in Powys, Wales. The new resource, co-edited by Whalen and Christopher Hodgkins (University of North Carolina, Greensboro) and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, will be published by University of Virginia Press next year. Drs. Whalen and Hodgkins have been asked to consider expanding the project to make it a Complete Works of George Herbert, and, to that end, have secured a commitment from U of Virginia Press to publish the expanded edition should they complete it as planned.

Whalen was also invited to lead a one-day seminar on digital editing at Trinity College, University of Dublin, which he did following his presentation in Powys.

