



EDEN

English Department Electronic Newsletter



"If you can read this, thank a teacher."

February 2010

Announcements

- ◆ EN 495: Special Topics: Canadian Culture & Society: Southern Ontario will be offered during the final week of summer, August 14-21, 2010 and will count as 4 credits toward the Fall 2010 semester. The course will showcase the cultural, historical, and political aspects of the area, focusing on Ottawa and Stratford. More information about the course, as well as a detailed itinerary can be found at <http://webb.nmu.edu/Departments/English/SiteSections/Programs/StudyAbroad.shtml>.
- ◆ NMU undergraduates are wanted to teach English conversation in Korea. "Let's Talk— Teach and Learn in Korea" is a program for undergraduate students who want to get experience in teaching English to elementary school children and study abroad. The National Institute for International Education is providing free round-trip airfare, a \$1,300 monthly stipend, personal accommodation, one settlement allowance, paid leave, vacation, and health insurance. Undergraduates must be native speakers of English, and have completed two or more years of education at an accredited university. In Korea, students will teach 15 hours per week. For more information, visit www.talk.go.kr. Students who are about to graduate may want to check out Korea's "Epik" program. Any graduate with a Bachelor's degree can teach in Korea for salary, single furnished housing, severance pay, paid vacation, and entrance and exit allowance. For more information, visit www.epik.go.kr.
- ◆ Proposals are currently being accepted for the Excellence in Education Research Program, which provides a \$1,500 award to support graduate student research in the summer. The award provides 1 graduate credit that students can use toward graduation requirements, free of charge. The deadline for proposals is February 15. See <http://webb.nmu.edu/GrantsAndResearch/SiteSections/GrantSeeking/ExcellenceEducation.shtml> for additional information.
- ◆ Yulin University, in northern Shaanxi Province in north central China, is looking for English teachers for the 2010-2011 academic year. The minimum requirement is a BA or BS degree in any field, although a master's degree in English is preferred. Teachers would provide instruction in both oral and written English to undergraduate English majors, whose native language is Chinese. For more information, contact Don Faust in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at dfaust@nmu.edu.
- ◆ English MA Students—Last October the Thesis Proposal Committee held a meeting outlining the guidelines for thesis proposal submission. Writing a thesis is just one of three options the dept provides to fulfill the MA's capstone project requirement. The other options include internships and a Portfolio Development Project. Students who want to write a thesis, and who plan to graduate in either May 2011 or Dec 2011, should submit a proposal by March 12, 2010. Proposals should be submitted to Stephen Burn. If you have any questions about drafting a thesis proposal you can contact either Stephen (sburn@nmu.edu) or Rebecca Johns (rtrissle@nmu.edu).

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Lisa Fay Coutley's second chapbook, *In The Carnival of Breathing*, recently won the Fall 2009 Black River Chapbook Competition and will be published by Black Lawrence Press in mid-2011. Coutley has individual poems forthcoming in *Cave Wall*, *Pebble Lake Review*, and *Fugue*.

James McCommon's new book, *Waiting on a Train*, was named one of *Library Journal's* Best Books of 2009. It was one of only 31 books to make the list. The *Library Journal* said, "In joining the author on his 2008



rail travels around the country—that is, where passenger rail still survives—readers get a fine, accessible history of American passenger and freight rail service; a travel memoir with authentically rendered portraits; and a prescription for the future of American railroads. With the country seemingly poised on the threshold of major new commitments to a mythic component of our continental history, this is crucial reading."



Katherine Hanson received the Excellence in Teaching Award for 2009-10.



Beverly Matherne received the Excellence in Scholarship Award for 2009-10.

Updates on former NMU graduate students:



Kyle Bladow and **Sarah Johnson** had their manuscript, "Infusing Reading Strategies in the Composition Classroom" accepted for publication in *Innovative Learning Strategies (ILS) Nineteenth Yearbook, 2009-2010*. *ILS* is a peer-referred yearbook published by the College Literacy Learning (CLL) Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association. Their article came from the presentation given at the CLL of IRA Conference in Atlanta in May 2008. Bladow is presently a doctoral candidate at the University of Nevada at Reno and Johnson is an MFA candidate at the Minnesota State University at Mankato.



NMU alumni, author **Kathleen Heideman**, has been named Artist-in-Residence at Badlands National Park. Heideman's month-long residence is scheduled for March 2010. Her project will combine poetry, geology, paleontology, GPS data, and landscape sketches. During the Badlands residency, she will also work with children in grades 5-8 at an elementary school in nearby Interior, South Dakota, through a National Park Service educational outreach program. This is her sixth artist residency with the National Park Service. Heideman resides in Marquette with her husband.

Susan Page's dissertation/thesis entitled "The Storyteller" has been published by ProQuest/UMI.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Updates on more former NMU graduate students:



Sarah Wangler is currently enrolled in the MFA program at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She is a TA with a 2/2 course load in the composition program and she is focusing her studies on poetry.



Alison Spaude spent the summer after leaving Marquette this past May leading kayaking trips in different parts of Lake Superior and Georgian Bay. She married her partner, Alan, at the end of August, and they have spent the last month working on an organic farm in Vermont. She has applied for many jobs and hopes to start a new job around January 1.



Casey Thayer taught two classes at ITT Technical Institute, as well as two courses for the University of Phoenix (one online and one at their Madison campus) in December. He has been staying active in the publishing market and has sent out his book manuscript to some competitions. He also has sent out 30 manuscripts of poems. He heard back from *Hayden's Ferry Review*, which will be paying him for two of his poems. He is currently searching for a tenure track job around Madison.



Brian McMillan is teaching composition as an adjunct instructor at Johnson Community College in Kansas. He is also taking care of his new baby, Elizabeth Jane.



Kyle Bladow is teaching an introductory composition class as well as taking courses in the Literature and the Environment program at the University of Nevada, Reno.



Kevin Avery has been teaching three courses at Waubonsee Community College in Sugar Grove, IL: two first-year composition classes and one second-year composition class. He has received a job at Bowling Green Technical College in Kentucky, where he will start teaching next semester.



Tara Retro (Acton) recently found a job at ACT in Iowa City (as in the high school ACT exam). She works in Scholarship and Recognition Services, where she is reading and scoring essays and applications for the Horatio Algers Scholarship Program, which specifically helps students with financial adversity. The position is a temporary job, but she has been asked to stay on for the next project.



Elizabeth Crachiolo is adjunct teaching at Grand Valley and Grand Rapids Community College and tutoring online. Next semester she will also be teaching online for Davenport University.



Sarah Johnson is currently taking classes as an MFA graduate at MSU and is working as a TA.



Ben Wielechowski received two jobs as a part-time instructor at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor and Schoolcraft in Livonia. He has taken on four classes.

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Gabriel Brahm, Peter Goodrich, Becky Johns, Lesley Larkin, Z.Z. Lehmberg, Cate Terwilliger, and David Wood, who have all received released time grants for Winter 2010.



All four successful sabbatical applicants: **Stephen Burn, Sandy Burr, Z.Z. Lehmberg, and Kia Richmond.**



Sandy Burr and Alan Willis, who are the proud parents of a baby boy, Devyn Cashel.



Outstanding Graduating M.F.A. Student Award winner, **Lisa Fay Coutley.** Coutley received her BA in English from the University of Wisconsin– Green Bay in 2004 and her MA in English from NMU. She is the associate poetry editor of *Passages North*, and is also an MFA teaching fellow here at Northern. She has written two chapbooks: *Woman from Water*, which is forthcoming in 2010, and *Back-Talk*, which has already been released, and was the winner of the ROOMS Chapbook Competition. In the summer of 2009, Coutley was awarded a scholarship to attend the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and her work appeared most recently, or is forthcoming, in *Blackbird*, *Sewanee Theological Review*, *32 Poems*, *Pebble Lake Review*, *Fugue*, *Hollins Critic*, and *Linebreak*.

Outstanding Graduating M.A. Student Award winner, **Krysthol Kauffman.** Kauffman came to NMU in the fall of 2004, and received her BS with a major in English and a minor in writing in 2008. She will receive her MA in Literature and Pedagogy in May, 2010. Her literary interests include modern and postmodern British and American fiction, and she is currently finishing her interdisciplinary thesis, which defines a new sub-genre of the novel called the Post-Freudian Casebook Neuro-Novel. She is also the vice-president of the English Honors Society, Sigma Tau Delta, and has served as both the Graduate Assistant for the Writing Center and as a Teaching Assistant.

Outstanding Graduating Senior Award winner, **Jessica Parker.** Parker enrolled at NMU in 2007 and has since maintained a 4.0 GPA. In 2008 she was a finalist in NMU's Houston Award contest, and in May of 2009 she received the Susan Goodrich Memorial Scholarship to support a study abroad trip to Mexico. She has contributed to the *North Wind* by writing two guest articles in the spring of 2008. Parker has recently published her first poem and plans to continue writing fiction and poetry in the future. In May 2010 she will complete her Bachelor's degree in English and Spanish, with a minor in German.



Writing Contests

The NMU English Department hosts several annual writing contests for students. These contests are now accepting submissions. The deadline for the contests is February 15 except for the Cohodas contest which is March 1. Entry forms and specific guidelines can be found at www.nmu.edu/english/awards. Winners for all contests will be announced in April.

- ◆ **Barnard Award (\$50):** The Barnard Award is given for an exceptional paper submitted in EN 111. It was established by the English Department in 1969 to honor the teaching and concern for writing shown by Dr. Ellsworth Barnard during his years of service at Northern Michigan University (1957-1968).
- ◆ **Houston Award (\$50):** The Houston Award is given for an exceptional paper written in EN 211A, EN 211B, EN211D, or EN211E. It was established by the English Department in 1984 to honor the teaching and concern for writing shown by Dr. Howard Houston during his years of service at NMU (1968-1983).
- ◆ **Legler Memorial Poetry Prize (\$200):** The Legler Memorial Poetry Prize is awarded for a poem submitted by an undergraduate student. It was established by the English Dept in 1993 to honor the teaching and concern for poetry writing shown by Professor Phil Legler during his years of service at NMU (1968-1992).
- ◆ **VandeZande Fiction Prize (\$200):** The VandeZande Fiction Prize was created in 2008 to honor John M. VandeZande, an esteemed former professor at NMU who died in 2006.
- ◆ **Cohodas Literary Prize (\$500 First Place, \$250 Second Place, \$100 Third Place):** This prize was established by Rabbi Samuel & Lynn Stahl and Nancy & Paul Oberman, in honor of the 65th wedding anniversary of their parents, Lois and Willard Cohodas. The goal of the competition is to provoke serious thought about one or more of the following topics:
 - Enhancing religious, racial and cultural understanding
 - Eliminating hatred and racism
 - Promoting awareness of the HolocaustThe deadline for the Cohodas contest is March 1.



Another writing contest students may be interested in entering is the national 2010 *Kenyon Review* Short Fiction Contest. The contest is only open to writers under age 30. Submissions will be accepted February 1, 2010 to February 28, 2010 through the Short Fiction Contest page of the *Kenyon Review* website:

<http://www.kenyonreview.org/contests-sf.php>. The winning story will be published in *The Kenyon Review* and the author will receive a scholarship to the 2010 *Kenyon Review* Writers Workshop, which will be held from June 19-26, 2010 in Gambier, Ohio. There is no entry fee for submissions. Stories must be no longer than 1,200 words. The *Review* asks that entrants do not simultaneously submit their contest entry to another contest or magazine. No paper entries will be accepted and winners will be announced in late-spring by e-mail. The final judge will be acclaimed author Louise Erdrich. For more information, visit *The Kenyon Review's* website at <http://www.kenyonreview.org/contests-sf.php>.



One more short story contest, the National Society of Arts and Letters Literature Competition in Short Story, is now being held. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2010. Applications and submissions should be mailed to Doni Lystra at 875 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, MI, 48103. More information about the competition can be found online at <http://www.arts-nsal.org/competition.html>.

Academic Service Learning and EN 111

By Rochelle Dale

Over the summer, members of the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve and I discussed the various ways in which a Freshman Composition class and the Preserve might work together. The Watershed's executive director was looking for ways to increase student participation and gain fresh perspectives. I was looking for a means to enthruse and motivate students to care about what they write while at the same time introducing them to our natural environment.

The Preserve relies on volunteers for a major portion of its work load, and director, Emily Whittaker, had been hoping to highlight the volunteers' work in the December issue of the biannual newsletter, *The Yellow Dog Howl*. My EN 111 class became the means to make this happen. Students interviewed eleven of those volunteers and then scrupulously wrote, revised, and edited volunteer profiles for publication in this issue. In order to give students a sense of place that the volunteers and other members are so passionate about, we traveled to a section of the Yellow Dog River one sunny September day. For many, this trip was a discovery: "As soon as I got out of the van, I realized this was why I came to Marquette." Another student wrote, "The trip really made me realize what incredible wilderness is in the Marquette area and how it truly needs to be protected . . . there really aren't many rivers like this left anymore." And still another wrote, "Once I got there, I never intended to leave . . . the view of waterfall after waterfall stole my heart. There is no other way I can express my love for the wilderness except that is the reason why I came to Marquette and NMU. "

Others were impressed by the people they met and interviewed. They were pleased to get to know someone out of their own peer group. One student said that he "wouldn't mind hanging out" with his new acquaintance. Another student expressed her admiration of her interviewee's woodland knowledge and concluded with "the interview experience was awesome."

Check out the students' volunteer profiles, place profiles, and photographs in December at <http://www.yellowdogwatershed.org/blog/programs/educationoutreach/newsletters-and-publications/>

