



EDEN

English Department Electronic Newsletter



"Life is a handful of short stories pretending to be a novel." -Anonymous

November 2010

Announcements

- ◆ Former NMU graduate, Fred Bilenky, who is now teaching high school English in Jakarta, Indonesia, would like to express a message of thanks to the English Department: "If I could share a message with the English Department, I would say thank you. I'm so proud of my education at Northern. I had so much to learn, and the teachers had so much to teach me. It's because of NMU that I have been afforded the opportunity to teach at Jakarta International School in Jakarta, Indonesia. I love that I get to work in such an exciting place, and better yet, I love my job. Every day I'm inspired by my students, challenged by my colleagues, treated as a professional by the school, and valued by the parents. But for the rigorous English Department, compounded by the vigilance of the Education Department, and the Study Abroad Office sending me to student teach in New Zealand, I certainly would not have the passion nor skill to teach in one of the best international schools in Asia. Thank you Northern for those formative years in the Upper Peninsula wild, you prepared me well."

Accomplishments

Former EN 309 student, **Richard Chiamulera**, just published a short article in the MCTE E-Met (Electronic Michigan English Teacher Newsletter) about his experiences volunteering in Ecuador this summer. Read the article at: http://api.ning.com/filestcKECpu*EEOUqd3x67CdUCQaxjMTOS7bAelyEB0npjdkOAuxjkX*Y*eU4VtTx6yvAM9GFAQIZ5CfFu4HjkVcq3owRGZckRl/September2010eMet.pdf



Kia Jane Richmond has received a MEEMIC Foundation for the Future of Education mini-grant for \$1,800 for a special academic service learning project with her English 350 methods course in Winter 2011. The grant, called "Reaching/Teaching the Future," will allow Dr. Richmond's English Education students in English 350: Materials and Methods of Teaching English to connect with middle and high school students in local schools in discussions focused on the life of an English teacher. Young adults and methods students will discuss what English teachers do, how they prepare for careers in education, and why individuals might become English teachers. EN 350 students will also join the Michigan Council of Teachers of English and interview local English teachers about how involvement in professional organizations enhances teaching identities and teacher efficacy.

2010 NMU Graduate Professional Development Conference

On Friday, October 8, 2010 the inaugural Graduate Professional Development Conference was held at the NMU University Center. The conference was designed to improve opportunities for graduate students to participate in professional development. The free conference, open to all graduate students, focused on five key areas: leadership, teaching, communication, self-awareness, and professional adaptability.

Seventy graduate students attended the event, representing eight different departments, including thirty-eight from English. Conference evaluations, along with day of feedback, indicate that this event was both informative and meaningful for attendees. One evaluation read, "Sessions were deeply helpful from a professional standpoint." Preliminary planning for next year's conference is already underway.

This opportunity was funded by a Wildcat Innovation Fund Grant under the direction of Dr. Raymond Ventre, Department Head of English, and Dr. Patrick Brown, Department Head of Biology, and with the support of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) and the Graduate Studies Office.

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Winter 2011 Specialty Courses

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ AIS 435: Research Using Digital Information Resources is scheduled for Winter 2011 on Thursday nights from 7-8:50 p.m. The course will meet every week and laptops will be required for use in class. This course can be counted as a cognate for the English undergraduate program or MA program. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EN 595: Teaching with Technology will be offered Monday from 6-9:20 p.m. Theory, research, and praxis of computer-mediated pedagogies will be examined. Students will discuss what can be done with laptops, a classroom of desktop computers, or with one computer. As a group, students will examine and utilize free and for-profit software programs and look at their applications in the writing classrooms. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EN 410/505: Genres of Writing: Spirit will be taught during Winter 2011. The course will focus on Prose and the Spirit: Essaying Matters Unseen. In this genre course, students will write nonfiction prose, the province of which is the exploration, articulation, evocation, and even creation, of something called "spirit." Spirit may or may not express itself as (religious) faith and spirit may or may not involve itself in (institutional) religion. Spirit is expressed in the following nonfiction works (this is not a course reading list, but these texts are indicative of the range of possibilities in this sub genre of nonfiction: Henry Adams, <i>Mont-Saint Michel and Chartres</i>; Black Elk, <i>Black Elk Speaks</i>; Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, <i>The Phenomenon of Man</i>; Annie Dillard, <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i>; Viktor Frankl, <i>Man's Search for Meaning</i>; C.S. Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i>, and more. Instructor, Paul Lehmborg, and students in this writing workshop will together select a reading list in the first two weeks. In addition to the reading, major assignments will include two substantial pieces of writing, one brief piece of writing— a "grace note"— and one oral book report. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EN 512: Teaching of Literature will be offered. The course is designed to help lovers of literature learn how to teach literature and instill in their students a love of literature based primarily on their experiences supplemented with some examination of works about teaching literature. Course work will include: Extensive and widely varied reading of works of literature (textbooks, handouts, web sources, etc.), writing assignments, journal writing, and presentation of two teaching units. This is a pedagogy course and thus counts in that category in the Masters Degree track with this designation. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EN 495/595: Comparative Mythology will be offered during Winter 2011. This is an advanced introduction to the various theories of myth and their applications to a variety of mythic texts from around the world. It covers definitions, historical schools and issues, embodiments, rites and ceremonials, and mythified existence in the modern world. Readings from every major continent and spanning ancient to modern times include, in chronological order, <i>The Gilgamesh Epic</i>; <i>The Ramayana</i> by Valmiki (particularly appropriate to EN 495/595: Introduction to Thailand— Study Abroad); <i>Metamorphoses</i> by Ovid; <i>The Mande or Mwindo</i> epics; J.R.R. Tolkien's <i>The Silmarillion</i>; and Mario Vargas Lhosa's, <i>The Storyteller</i>. Students will independently investigate and report on theoretical topics, adaptations, and contemporary forms of myth, in addition to core fictional readings. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EN 495/595: Introduction to Thailand— Study Abroad will be offered in Winter 2011. This is a three-week multi-disciplinary perspective course with travel dates in May 2011. To take part in this course, students must attend one of the interest meetings (Friday, November 5 at 11:30 a.m. in Gries Hall 165 or Thursday, November 18 at 7 p.m. in Gries Hall 167), register before March 2011 for one credit in EN 495/595 or EN 495/595W: Study Abroad— Thailand Trip, pay the required tuition and the International Program fee by the deadlines, and attend the preparation sessions beginning March, soon after Winter Break. For more information, contact Peter Goodrich (pgoodric@nmu.edu), William Ball (wball@nmu.edu), or the International Programs Office (goabroad@nmu.edu or 227-2510). | |

Writing Across the Peninsula Conference

Fifty-two English Department faculty members, teaching assistants, and graduate assistants attended the inaugural Writing Across the Peninsula Conference, September 23 and 24, 2010, at Michigan Technological University. The conference was the result of a consortium formed by Upper Peninsula universities and composition directors, Karla Kitalong of Michigan Technological University, Mary Been of Lake Superior State University, and **Laura Soldner** of Northern Michigan University.

This year's theme, "Exploring the Range," included an invited plenary session by **Liz Monske**, NMU Assistant Professor, entitled, "In the Range of Possibilities, Incorporating Academic Service Learning into the Writing Classroom."

Three MFA Fellows, **Robbie Cole**, '10, **Jason Shrontz**, '11, and **Andy Hilleman**, '12, gave a panel presentation at the conference. "Extending the Range of Composition: Teaching Composition Online," addressed their experiences in developing and coordinating online composition for first-time instructors or instructors preparing to modify their courses to fit an online model. All three taught writing online for the Department of English during Summer 2010.

A complete list of the 52 attendees follows:

Teaching Assistants

Emily Aho, Joshua Anderson, Joshua Biron, Brooke Boulton, Katherine Buel, Alcha Bufe, Colin Clancy, Justin Daugherty, Emily Englehard, Liz Faucett, Richard Hacker, Andy Hilleman, Joe Janca, Liz Kepsel, Danielle Kourey, Jodi Lampi, Krista Mann, Chanomi Maxwell-Parish, Erica Mead, Laura Mead, Jordan Meyers, John Misner, Darrin Moir, Meredith Neuman, Olivia Olson, Amanda Paulus, Gillian Podkomorka, Tom Rich, Ginny Schminke, Emily Schneeberger, Teresa Sherman-Jones, Jason Shrontz, Luke Thominet, Ren Vanderlind, and Cameron Witbeck.

Graduate Assistants

Bill Provost and Jian Sha

Graduate Students

Merle Alix, Mike Brennan, Cameron Contois, Jenna Dennings, and Cameron Mahoney.

Adjuncts Faculty Members

Robbie Cole, Rochelle Dale, Krysthol Kauffman, Blake Vanderlind, and Monica Zavala.

Faculty Members

Carol Anderson, Liz Monske, Mark Smith, Laura Soldner, Ray Ventre

*Attention Faculty, Staff, and Students: If you have anything that you would like to be included in EDEN, or any ideas about how to improve the newsletter, please e-mail eden@nmu.edu.