



EDEN

English Department Electronic Newsletter



"Writing is a socially acceptable form of schizophrenia." E.L. Doctorow

October 2010

Announcements

- ◆ NMU/Marquette County's One Book, One Community novel for this year is Mary Doria Russell's *The Sparrow*. Russell will be visiting NMU on Tuesday, October 26. As part of her visit, she will be hosting a Q&A section with students at 12:30 p.m. in Jamrich 102. Students who are reading *The Sparrow*, or just interested in getting information from the novelist, are welcome to attend. Russell will also be doing a larger presentation for the public at 7 p.m. in the Great Lakes Rooms. A short plot summary of the book follows: a man returns to Earth—sole survivor of an interplanetary expedition—horribly disfigured and guarding a shocking secret. What happened to Emilio Sandoz on the planet Rakhat? What happened to the others that went with him? And why? This story is essentially about the destruction that can result when one culture steps into another culture, even with the best of intentions.



- ◆ Poet, Catie Rosemurgy, will be speaking at NMU on Wednesday, October 13 in the University Center, at 7:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Catie is the author of two collections of poetry: *My Favorite Apocalypse* and *The Stranger Manual*. Her work has appeared in such places as *American Poetry Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, and *Ploughshares*. She is the recipient of the Rona Jaffe Foundation Award and a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship. She lives in Philadelphia and teaches at the College of New Jersey.

- ◆ Full-time positions teaching English composition at Shenyang Normal University and Sias International University (in Xinzhen, China) through Fort Hays State University's Strategic Partnership Program are available. Master's degree in English or TESL/TEFL, with experience in teaching ESL/EFL writing preferred. Candidates must be U.S. citizens or hold a U.S. work visa. Native speakers of American English are preferred. Chinese work visas require candidates to be under 60 years old. Teachers will teach the equivalence of four sections (up to 25 students in each) per semester of English Composition 101 and 102, following Department of English policies and procedures for these courses. Before leaving for China, instructors must meet with the Director in an expenses-paid visit to FHSU campus to learn what is expected in teaching courses. The person to contact is Dr. Eric Leuschner. Email resume, transcripts, and two current letters of recommendation. Fort Hays State University will pay a \$20,000 salary plus benefits and will pay for one round-trip flight from the USA to the Chinese University. Housing is provided by Chinese partner university. For more information, visit <http://bigcat.fhsu.edu/positions/fac.php?job=206>.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Announcements.....	1
Accomplishments.....	2-3
UNITED Conference Speakers...	4

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Robert Whalen, in collaboration with Christopher Hodgkins, English professor at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Scholarly Editions Grant worth \$250,000 in combined outright funding and in-kind contributions. Their project, *The Digital Temple*, is a documentary edition of seventeenth-century poet George Herbert's English verse. It offers full transcriptions, linked to high-resolution digital scans, of three artifacts essential to the study of Herbert's great collection entitled *The Temple: Sacred Poems and Private Ejaculations*, first published in 1633. When complete, the edition will include original- and modern-spelling transcriptions thoroughly encoded in TEI-XML (the universal standard for the preservation and transmission of platform-independent electronic texts); critical annotations and glosses; and a robust user interface that includes options for computer-assisted textual analysis and data retrieval. Dr. Whalen is pleased to be joined by Dr. Hodgkins, Professor of English, Director of the Atlantic World Research Network at UNCG, and a co-founder of the international George Herbert Society. A leading scholar of Herbert studies, Hodgkins brings considerable expertise to his various tasks as co-editor. He will help design and co-write the edition's critical apparatus, as well as assist in establishing the transcriptions and proofing them for accuracy. *The Digital Temple* is under contract with University of Virginia Press and scheduled tentatively for publication in 2012.



Marek Haltof published an article, "Return to Auschwitz: Wanda Jakubowska's *The Last Stage* (1948)," in a refereed journal *The Polish Review* vol. 55, no. 1 (2010): 7-34. The text deals with a seminal film about Auschwitz, often discussed in film criticism as "the mother of all Holocaust films" – a prototype for future Holocaust cinematic narratives. In April, he delivered an invited presentation at the University of Missouri at Kansas City on "Kieślowski's Trilogies and European Art Cinema." In May, Haltof participated in a Film and Theater Conference at the University of Wrocław, Poland, with a paper (in Polish) on "David Williamson, Ocker Films, and the Australian Film Renaissance in the 1970s."



Jason Markle's short story, "Pazite Snajper" has been accepted and will appear in the October issue of *Blue Crow Magazine*.



James McCommons continues to promote his narrative non-fiction book, *Waiting on a Train: The Embattled Future of Passenger Rail— A Year Spent Riding Across America*. *The Library Journal* named it one of the Best Books of 2009. In May 2010, *Waiting on a Train* won a ForeWord Book of the Year Silver Award (Social Science category) at Book Expo America in New York City. The ForeWord awards recognize distinctive books from independent publishers across a number of genres. Over the summer, reviews and articles about *Waiting on a Train* appeared in: *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The New Republic*, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, *Knoxville News Sentinel*, *Reno Gazette*, *Raleigh News-Observer*, *The Intelligence Daily*, *Reuters Wire Service*, *Syracuse University Magazine*. McCommons also toured, lectured, and did several book signings. He spoke at the University of Portland (Oregon), the California State Railroad Museum (Sacramento), Steamtown U.S.A. National Park (Scranton, PA), and the Rail America symposium in Longbeach, CA. He gave lectures at several independent book stores and public libraries, including: Springfield, Mass., Eugene, Ore., and Kansas City, Mo. As a freelance journalist, he published articles and photographs in the Sunday travel sections of the *Los Angeles Times* (European Rail Travel), *St. Paul Pioneer-Press* (Meteor Crater, Arizona), *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* (Rails to trail mountain biking in Idaho), *The Oregonian* (The Grand Canyon Railroad), and he wrote a special section for *Audobon* magazine on eight train trips to natural places (September issue).

*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.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Jen Howard's story, "Maybe Gravity Is," was published in *Necessary Fiction*, and "What to Give Your Ex-Girlfriend for Her Birthday" was published in *decomp*. "Some Other Landscape" is forthcoming in *LITnIMAGE* in October.



Jaspal Singh's new book, *Trauma, Resistance, Reconstruction in Post-1994 South African Writing*, has been published by Peter Lang Publishing.



Congratulations to Adjunct Assistant Professor, **Heidi Stevenson**, on completing her Ph.D. this summer.

Former English Teaching Assistants **Lisa Coutley, Adam Houle, Brandi George, Eric Smith, and Sarah Wangler** are listed among the Fifty Best New Poets of 2010.

Former NMU MA student and local author, **Kathleen Heideman**, has been selected for the Aspen Guard Station Artist-in-Residence Program in the San Juan National Forest in Durango, Colorado. Heideman will be writing ghazals inspired by nouns describing the natural world— words such as fern, gooseberry, and porcupine, which were removed from a recent edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary. She has also been named a 2011 Fellow of the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico. Heideman also has work appearing in the current issue of *Fringe* and the October issue of *decomp*.

Former graduate student, **Jason Pilarski**, accepted a one-year full-time teaching position at Lake Superior State University. He will be teaching two sections of EN 091 and two sections of EN 110.

Former student, **Daniel King**, has had his first collection of stories published by IP. The collection of magical realism stories won the prize in the IPPicks competition last year.

MFA Graduate, **Casey Thayer**, was runner-up for the Wisconsin People & Ideas/Wisconsin Book Festival 2010 Poetry Contest. He also has a tenure track position at UW-Rock County, a two-year campus in Wisconsin.



A review of **Beverly Matherne's** latest bilingual book, a collection of linked poems about the early life of Lamothe-Cadillac, French explorer and founder of Detroit, appears in the current issue of *Metamorphoses*. The review was written by a French scholar from University of Virginia and opens with a sentence that addresses the book's "strength and originality." Matherne's "The Blues Cryin'," the title poem for her collection of blues poetry in CD and book formats, has inspired work by Italian painter, Giampiero Actis. An Italian translation of the poem is published alongside a glossy photo of the painting in an exhibition catalogue for the show, taking place now at Promotrice Di Belle Arti, a museum in Torino, Italy.

Former graduate student, **Scott Stone**, has started classes at University of New York at Buffalo, where he will also be teaching.

Undergraduate student, **Ashley Perrin**, had her essay, "My Beautiful Nightmare," published on NPR. The essay can be found here: <http://thisibelieve.org/essay/78624/>.

Undergraduate student, **Maxwell Peterson**, had his short story, "The Legend of Left-Hand Lewis" published by Mutation Press in a Science Fiction/Fantasy anthology titled, *Music for Another World*, which was released in August of this year. Peterson also had his one-act play, "Mary Ann and the Father Monster," win first runner up for Western Michigan University's Arnie Johnston Undergraduate Playwriting Award in May.

UNITED Conference Speakers

Many English Department faculty and students, as well as others, presented at the 2010 UNITED Conference at NMU. Summaries of their presentations follow:



Second year English MA student, **Jian Sha**, who is also the current Graduate Assistant in the Language Lab, presented, "The 2008 Sichuan Province Earthquake and Recovery Efforts."



Lesley Larkin presented a film, *The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo*. This film was shot in the war zones of the Democratic Republic of Congo and brings to light the use of sexual violence as a weapon of conflict.



Gabriel Brahm presented Israeli animated film, *Waltz with Bashir*, which portrays the aftermath of the 1982 Lebanon War and the lives of some Israeli soldiers.

Dana Schulz of Snowbound Books led a discussion of Marquette's Community Read, *The Sparrow*, by Mary Doria Russell.

Visiting Scholar **Gregory Lobo** presented Colombian film, *The First Night*.

Former English MA student, **Jason Harper** presented a live video via internet from China. China's Cultural Cuisine was a collection of essays and accompanying recipes written by students in his Chinese English Composition class.



Shirley Brozzo presented, "Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts," in which she shared insight about communicating in a diverse world.



Miriam Moeller and **Rehema Clarcken** presented interactive workshop, "Diversify Yourself," which offered advice

to students on how to gain more international focus on and off campus.