



EDEN

English Department Electronic Newsletter



"Just don't take any class where you have to read *Beowulf*." — Woody Allen

September 2009

Announcements

- ◆ December Graduates: If you plan to graduate (vocational diploma, certificate, associate, bachelor's or master's degree) at the end of the semester, you must register for graduation so a final degree audit can be completed to verify your eligibility. Register just as you would for a class. You need to register for graduation whether you are participating in the ceremony or not.
- ◆ Two Professional Development Sessions for graduate students will be held this year. The first session, on getting into Doctoral/MFA Programs and/or landing teaching or other English-related positions, will be held November 6. The second session, on getting published and cultivating professional contacts, will be April 2.
- ◆ Marquette's "One Book, One Community" book this year is *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. As part of the "One Book, One Community" festivities, Tim O'Brien will be coming to Marquette. He will discuss the book and take questions from the audience. The event will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, October 7 in the Great Lakes Rooms of the University Center.
- ◆ Upcoming visiting writers for the fall semester, sponsored by the MFA Program and *Passages North*, are Bill Olsen on October 2, Robert Butler on Nov 5 and Arda Collins on Nov 13. See the English department web site for more details.
- ◆ MA Students: There are two application forms that need to be submitted to Stephen Burn along with a prospectus for thesis projects. For Fall 2010 grads, the deadline is October 13. For May 2011 grads, the deadline is March 15. Forms and guidelines for the prospectus can be found on the English department web site.
- ◆ The MA Committee is seeking feedback from graduate students about courses for the 2010-2011 school year. Specifically, we are looking for suggestions for major authors, genres, and/or special topics that you would like to see offered. Any graduate students who have suggestions or feedback for potential classes should submit them to Scott Stone at micstone@nmu.edu.

Accomplishments



Lisa Fay Coutley's manuscript, *Back-Talk* won the ROOMS Chapbook Competition and is forthcoming from Articles Press. Her work appeared on *Linebreak* this summer, and the editors posted an interview with Coutley about the poem on the *Linebreak* blog. She also received a scholarship to the Sewanee Writer's Conference this summer and has poems forthcoming in *Sewanee Theological Review* *Blackbird*, and *The Dirty Napkin*.



Stephen Burn reviewed Wells Tower's, *Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned* for the Times Literary Supplement and Evan Dara's, *The Easy Chain* for the American Book Review. Burn's essay, "Don DeLillo's Great Jones Street and the Science of Mind" was published in *Modern Fiction Studies*, on pages 349-68.



Issac Coleman's flash fiction piece, "Legacy Road" was published in the online journal, *Paper Street*. To read the piece, visit www.paperstreetonline.org.

Former NMU student, **Dave Savola** (not pictured), is currently at the University of Turku in Finland as a Fulbright Scholar. He sends his best wishes to the NMU English Department.

Tom Laverty (not pictured), former NMU MA student is currently employed as an English faculty member at Mott Community College in Flint. He is also employed at InsideOut Literary Arts Project in Detroit as a writer-in-residence.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Beverly Matherene published a series of prose poems, *Lamothe-Cadillac: Sa jeunesse en France (Lamothe-Cadillac: His Early Days in France)*, which brings to life Cadillac's days before he arrived in New France and the Great Lakes Region. This book was published by Les Editions Tintamarres at Centenary College of Louisiana. Her poem, "The Blues Cryin'" also appears in an online anthology, *The Four Seasons*, released in July to commemorate the death of Vivaldi. She also did nine readings this summer, eight centered around *Lamothe-Cadillac: Sa jeunesse en France*. She read at the Cadillac Museum in France, the New York Public Library and Baruch College of CUNY in New York, the Council of International Francophone Studies and the St. James Welcome Center in New Orleans, the Acadian Poetry Festival in Caraquet, New Brunswick, Canada, Bayliss Public Library in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and she was one of twelve poets to participate in *Walking with Dylan Thomas*, where she read her new villanelle, "At the Boathouse."



Congratulations to:
The 2009 English Award Recipients:
Cole Schmidt, Outstanding Graduating Senior; **Adam Cocco**, Outstanding M.A. Graduate Student; **Brian McMillan**, Outstanding Graduating M.F.A. Graduate Student; **Molly Anderson**, winner of the Barnard Award for an exceptional paper written in EN 111; **Erin Sikkema**, winner of the Houston Award for an exceptional paper written in EN 211; **Cameron Witbeck** for placing 1st in the Legler Memorial Poetry Contest and **Maxwell Peterson** and **Tom Rich**, the runner-ups; **Tom Rich** for winning the VandeZande Fiction Prize and **Lisa Geoffrion** and **Matt Mallum**, the runner-ups; **Cameron Witbeck** for receiving 1st place in the Cohodas Literary Competition, **Rachael Shoemaker** for placing second, and **Lisa Geoffrion** for third; and **Tyler Dunn** for being awarded the Miss Anna Frances Tuffley Scholarship. Winning essays can be read on the English dept web site.



James McCommons on his forthcoming book, *Waiting on a Train*.



David Wood on his forthcoming book, *Time, Narrative, and Emotion in Early Modern England*.



Cate Terwilliger on her promotion to Associate Professor.



Rob Whalen on his NEH Fellowship for 2009-10.



Kia Richmond on her appointment as President-elect of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English and co-editor of the Language Arts Journal of Michigan.



Dominic Ording on securing a tenure track position at Millersville University in Pennsylvania.



Adam Cocco on receiving a position teaching English at Carney Nadeau High School, his alma mater.



Ron Johnson on his sabbatical for winter 2010.



Since last reporting his activities in Eden, **Russell Prather** has shown his visual art in solo, group and juried exhibitions at the Riverside Arts Center in Chicago, the DeVos Art Museum at Northern Michigan University, the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay, the William Bonifas Fine Arts Center in Escanaba and other venues. He has received four juror's awards and one solo show award for work shown in the past two years. He has new exhibitions scheduled for 2010 in both Michigan and Washington State.

In 2008 Prather published "Obstruction or Obfuscation: Photographs by Peter Delory" in *Balance*, for the Lisa Harris Gallery in Seattle, and was awarded a nearly \$7000 NMU faculty grant for the *Multidisciplinary Study of William Blake*. His article *William Blake and the Problem of Progression*, accepted for publication by *Studies in Romanticism*, appeared in spring (46.4). During his sabbatical year 2008-09 he conducted research in the United Kingdom and France and continued work on a book in progress.

Prather is scheduled to teach an interdisciplinary graduate/upper division undergraduate seminar on *Word and Image: History, Theory, Practice* in collaboration with Professor James Phegan from the School of Art and Design in winter semester 2010.

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 email editor Stacy Milbourn at eden@nmu.edu.



Winter 2010 Semester Specialty Courses

Registration for winter courses begins October 30. Several specialty courses have been announced for winter semester. These courses include:

EN 495/EN 511: Teaching Reading in the English Classroom. This course will be offered by Professor Laura Soldner. Designed for graduate students and upper-class English majors and minors, this course would be especially pertinent to students on the pedagogy track in the graduate program, as well as for students planning to teach or go on to graduate school. Students in this course will study current and foundational research in the field of reading and explore its applicability to classrooms, learning centers, or other educational settings. Students will learn about and practice prereading, comprehension, retention, vocabulary, and meta-cognitive strategies in order to strengthen their own approaches to reading and implement methods in their instructional planning and delivery. Students in the course will also be invited to participate in the preparation and delivery of a conference presentation with Professor Soldner at the International Reading Association's annual conference in Chicago, which will take place April 25-28, 2010.



EN 495/EN 595: Word and Image: History, Theory, Practice. This course will be taught by Professor Russell Prather and Art & Design professor, James Phegan. This course, which is offered jointly by the English Department and the School of Art & Design, will investigate word-image relationships from historical, theoretical, and practical perspectives. The second half of the semester will foreground contemporary forms of word-image combination, particularly comics and graphic novels. This course is designed to bring together students from the English MA and MFA programs, as well as undergraduates from the English and Art & Design departments. Assignments are likely to include a short critical paper and research presentation, and will place special emphasis on students' own creative experiments combining word and image, culminating in a final creative project. Drawing ability is not required to take this course.

EN 430/EN 530: Major Authors: Salman Rushdie. This course will focus on Salman Rushdie, whose novel, *Midnight's Children*, received a Booker Prize in 1981. He was appointed a Knight Bachelor for services to literature in 2007, and in 2008 *Midnight's Children* won a public vote to be named "Best of the Booker," the best novel to win the Booker Prize in the award's 40-year history. Rushdie's writing reflects a broad area of cultural literary debates regarding post-modernity and post-coloniality. His novels critique social and cultural borders, explore race, hybridity, and intertextuality in a postcolonial context. One of the questions asked in the course will be: What is postcolonial literature? The course will focus on contemporary narratives from Rushdie and the readings will explore the lasting artistic and political impacts of colonization.

EN 311: World Literature in Translation. Celtic will survey the literature (with appropriate cultural and historical contexts) of six Gaelic languages from the British Isles and France -- Irish, Welsh, Scottish, Manx, Cornish, and Breton -- from the earliest recorded literature to the present. Due to the predominantly oral nature of Celtic literatures until recent times, much of what we read will be poetry. We will also sample much prose, including legends and sagas, a modern novel, and a nonfiction memoir. Under a variety of subjects, we will be asking what makes this Western European literature distinctive in the way it constructs the world and reveals the Celtic experience. And we will attempt to separate what is authentically Celtic from what has been reinvented or popularly imagined to be Celtic. Note: This course DOES satisfy the Humanities (Division II) Liberal Studies requirement, but DOES NOT satisfy the World Cultures requirement.