



2007

2007 Complete Digest

Department of English

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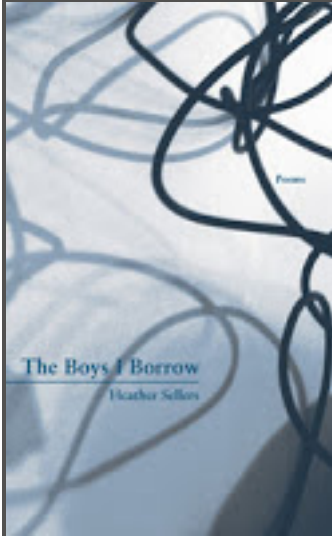


GLEANINGS

News & Events from the English Department at Western Michigan University

Friday, December 28, 2007

Recommended Reading



Three poets with books published by New Issues will be participating in the Gwen Frostic Reading Series next semester. John Rybicki's *Traveling at High Speeds* was one of New Issues' very first publications, published in 1996, and has been a bestseller ever since. The book has been taught in numerous college classes with much success. David Keplinger and Heather Sellers will also be reading. Visit the [New Issues website](#) to learn more about their titles and to read sample poems. New Issues provides free desk copies to professors that decide to include a New Issues title on their syllabus. Contact new-issues (at) wmich.edu for more information.

Posted by [New Issues Poetry & Prose](#) at 12:39 PM No comments: 

Labels: [Gwen Frostic Reading Series](#), [New Issues](#)

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Short Story Competition / Friends of Polish Art

Are you a closet writer? Always wanted to see your name and creation in print? Here's your chance. Friends of Polish Arts (FPA) is proud to announce the 2007-2008 Short Story Competition.

The competition is open to all Michigan residents of Polish descent who are at least 18 years old. Entrants may submit up to two short stories on any subject they wish. Entries are limited to 1500 words and must be the original work of the author that has never been published or won an award in any other competition. The entry fee is \$10.00 per person. Deadline for entries is February 1, 2008. Besides cash prizes for

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention, winners will have their stories published in the Friends of Polish Arts Newsletter, The American Council for Polish Culture Heritage, and in Tygodnik Swiat Polski, The Polish World.

Entry forms and rules are available at the Friends of Polish Arts website, <http://friendsofpolishart.info/dotnetnuke> or by contacting Janet Ann Hedin at janetannfpa@hotmail.com, 248-546-8004 or Susan Nash at Susannash4@aol.com, 743-428-9809.


Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 2:42 PM No comments: 

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Marcus Johnson's Christmas Greeting

I just received this video clip from Marcus Johnson, our MFA in Fiction student who is serving in Iraq with the Indiana National Guard. In the clip, he wishes us all in the English Department a Merry Christmas. Remember, if you'd like to send anything to Marcus, just let me know. I sent out a package three weeks ago, with lots of Christmas goodies, on behalf of his friends in the English department, but I'll bet that in the post-holiday "let down," Marcus would love to receive your cards. Here's the link to his

video: <http://myspacetv.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=vids.individual&videoid=24208109>


Posted by [Gwen Tarbox](#) at 5:23 PM No comments: 

Labels: [Happy Holidays from Marcus](#)

Monday, December 17, 2007

Graduate Students Receive Grants

Graduate students Todd Bannon and Cindy St. John are recipients of competitive support grants from the Graduate College. Todd received funding from the Graduate Student Travel Fund, Cindy from the Graduate Student Research Fund. Congrats!

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 1:38 PM No comments: 

Joslin Named Fulbright Senior Specialist

Katherine Joslin has been named a Fulbright Senior Specialist. She is scheduled to visit Minufiya University, Egypt, for one month in the spring of 2008. Senior specialists are intended to increase the participation of leading U.S. scholars and professionals in Fulbright academic exchanges, encourage new activities that go beyond the traditional Fulbright activities of lecturing and research, and promote increased connections between U.S. and non-U.S. post-secondary academic institutions.

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 1:23 PM No comments: 

Monday, December 10, 2007

Bonnie Wozniak

Our former English Department member Bonnie Wozniak died suddenly Friday night. She taught English 100 for us when she was getting her MA and then her MFA-poetry. She also worked for New Issues Press. For the last several years she had been teaching English at Lake Michigan Community College in South Haven. She was originally from Dearborn, where the visitation and Mass will be. Visitation at


Querfeld Funeral Home, Monday 6 - 8, and Tuesday 2 - 4 and 6 - 8. Mass Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. at The Divine Child Church, in Dearborn.

Posted by Becky Beech at 12:33 PM No comments: 

Friday, December 7, 2007

Helen Sellers


Professor Helen Sellers died this week at the age of 95. She came to the English Department in the Fall of 1947 and retired in 1974. Her specialty was modern literature and she continued to attend literary and musical events after she retired. She is remembered as a teacher both fair and demanding, a quiet and reserved person well-liked by students and colleagues.

Posted by Becky Beech at 10:40 AM No comments: 

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Third Coast Reading Series, December 7


The Third Coast Reading Series is closing the semester this Friday, December 7 at 7:30pm with a reading by graduate students Louis Khor (fiction), Hilary Selznick (non-fiction), and Birkin Gilmore (poetry). As always refreshments and good humor will abound. Please help spread the word, invite your students, and join us.

Posted by B. Marzoni at 3:04 AM No comments: 

Monday, November 26, 2007

Upcoming speaker: Dr. Joe Austin, from the History Dept. of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, will give a talk on Thurs., 11/29, entitled "Imagined Scenes Photographed in the Zines: Goths and Graffiti Writers." Dr. Austin's specialty is youth-culture studies, and his talk will focus on the role of 'zines in sustaining the long-standing international youth subcultures of Goth and graffiti-writing. His talk will begin at 7pm on Thursday, 11/29, on the 10th floor of Sprau Tower.


Faculty interested in attending a dinner for Dr. Austin at 5:30 on Thursday at the Oakwood Bistro, should contact Ilana Nash at ilana_nash@yahoo.com.

Posted by Ilana Nash at 5:17 PM No comments: 

Labels: [Speaker: Joe Austin on Goth and graffiti youth cultures](#)

Third Coast Reading Series, Friday Nov. 30

Please join us on the 10th floor this Friday, November 30 at 7:30 for a reading by graduate students Gary McDowell (poetry), Jessi Phillips (fiction), and Christine Iaderosa (playwriting). Refreshments and jovial camaraderie will, of course, be provided. So, spread the word and invite your students.

Posted by B. Marzoni at 2:38 PM No comments: 

Sunday, November 25, 2007

The how-tos of developing a faculty-led study abroad program



WMU's Haenicke Institute and the

International Education Council are hosting informational luncheons at noon on Tuesday, Nov. 27 and Wednesday, Nov. 28 in the Bernhard Center for faculty interested in developing a study abroad program. Colleagues who have led summer study abroad programs will discuss their experiences and institute staff will outline the development process and available resources. Complimentary lunch for all faculty who rsvp. See the links below for more details.

[Invitation](#)

[Flyer](#)

photo: Ekaterininsky Canal, 73, 104, St. Petersburg. Houses of Sonechka and pawnbroker Alyona Ivanovna from the novel *Crime and Punishment*.


Posted by [praguesummer](#) at 6:45 PM No comments: 

Wednesday, November 21, 2007

Harry Potter Event

On December 5, from 7pm to 9pm in the Loosemore Auditorium on the downtown Grand Valley campus, Steve Vander Ark, a Grand Rapids native and author of the *Harry Potter Lexicon* (www.hp-lexicon.org), will be speaking about his website and the Harry Potter books. Roger Rapoport, the founder of RDR Books, will also be

in attendance to speak about writing, editing, and publishing, as well as the publisher's legal battle with J.K. Rowling and Warner Bros. over a print version of the Lexicon website.


Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 4:02 PM No comments: 

Tuesday, November 20, 2007

Sigma Tau Delta Senator Eric Dial an active legislator

Student senator Eric Dial has taken the lead on several recent WSA actions to increase student involvement in raising the profile of WMU to prospective students. Dial, WSA senator representing Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society, has drafted legislation to propose a student-led committee to create "100 Points of Pride," promotional material outlining WMU achievements, to be created by WMU students.

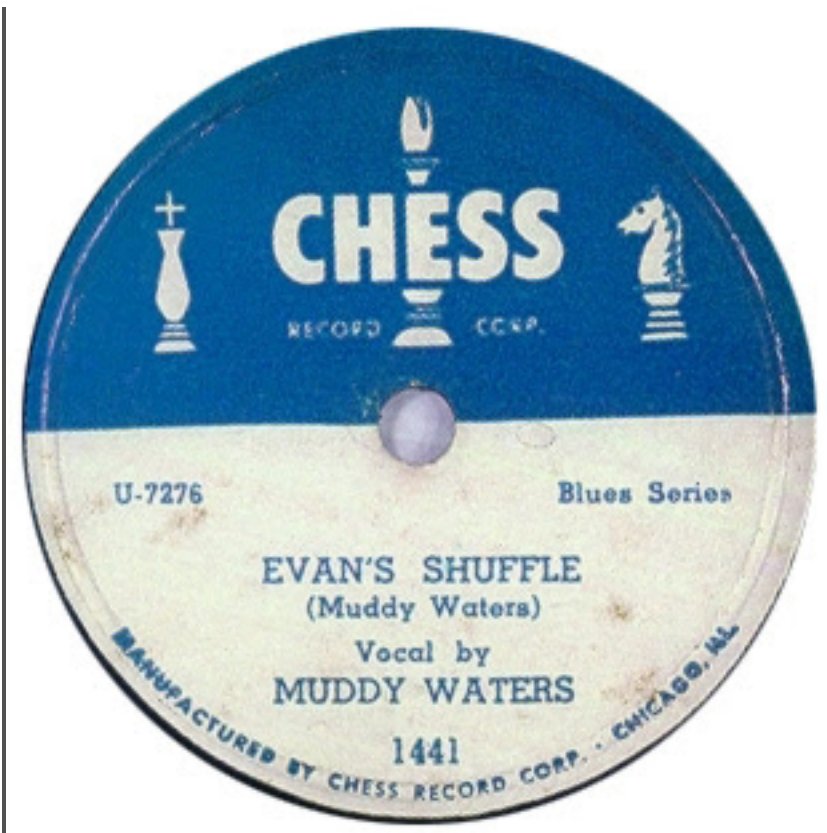
Dial, an English and history major, was also instrumental in drafting a successful WSA resolution to convey student concerns about aspects of the new WMU advertising campaign. He was one of four senators who drafted the language, which is critical of the negative connotations of several of the ads.

Posted by [Lisa Minnick](#) at 3:52 PM No comments: 

Labels: [Sigma Tau Delta](#), [WSA](#)

Saturday, November 17, 2007

AIN'T GOT NO HOME by Steve Feffer at Whole Art December 6, 7, 8, 14 and 15



Reservations are now being accepted for the Whole Art Theatre's full-production of Steve Feffer's play AIN'T GOT NO HOME, a new play based on the story of Chicago's legendary Chess Records. Performances of the play are December 6, 7 and 8 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) and 14 and 15 (Friday and Saturday) at 8 PM at the Whole Art's 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall space. Tickets for the Friday and Saturday performances are \$10.00.


Opening Night, Thursday, December 6, is a special Blues Bash Benefit for the Whole Art, featuring a performance of the play, followed by drinks and appetizers accompanied by a live blues band. Additionally, Steve will be digging deep into his Chess Records vault to DJ a Rock and Roll, Blues and Soul Dance Party. Tickets for this special evening are \$50.00 with all proceeds going to the theatre.

For reservations please call 269-345-7529. Please reserve early as seating is very limited.

AIN'T GOT NO HOME, which received (along with the Whole Art as sponsoring theatre) the 2007 New Jewish Theatre Award from the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, tells the story of Leonard Chess, a Jewish immigrant from Poland who founded the Chess Records label on Chicago's Southside in 1950, and his relationship with Muddy "Mississippi" Waters, the legendary bluesman from Rolling Fork, Mississippi, with who he made music history. Set between the years 1945 and 1969 the play traces the rise of Leonard Chess, and Chess Records, from out of a Southside liquor store; through his transformation of modern music with artists such as Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley; to his battle with his

son Marshall over the label's future in the turbulent 1960s. The play reveals the story of two immigrants, each man attempting to stake a claim in an America where they may not otherwise fit or be accepted, as they negotiate racial and religious perceptions in the 1950s and 1960s, and those that continue to shape the cultural present in our own communities.

The production is directed by Western Michigan University theatre professor Mark Liermann, and features Western Michigan University theatre professor Von Washington as Muddy "Mississippi" Waters.


Posted by [Steve Feffer](#) at 7:06 AM No comments: 

Friday, November 16, 2007

The Food Drive Is On!



AGES is happy to announce that the annual food drive to benefit the pantry at [Kalamazoo's Loaves and Fishes](#) has begun. We will be collecting non-perishable items through exam week. Collection bins are available (thanks Michelle!) in the 6th floor office. Please help us to make this year's drive successful.

Posted by [B. Marzoni](#) at 11:19 PM No comments: 

*GA/WAYNE & THE GREEN KNIGHT onstage @
Whole Art Theater*



Late Night Series at the Whole Art Studio
246 N. Kalamazoo Mall
November 16 - December 1

GA/WAYNE and the GREEN KNIGHT

by Michael P. Martin

Based on the anonymous epic poem, Martin has written a play telling of Sir Gawain's renowned life of virtue and his encounter with a seemingly otherworldly knight. This is the retelling of a classic, done in verse, juxtaposed with modern language, and extolling one of the greatest Arthurian legends. Featuring Dan Elmsblad, Jeff Khaled, Christopher MacLean-Nagle, Sarah MacLean-Nagle, Trevor Maher, Joe Sanders, Richard J. Steward, Geoff VanGemert, and Kate Walker.

And as at every Late Night performance, complimentary Beaner's Gourmet Coffee and Sweetwater's Donuts are provided for the audience.

Performs November 16, 17, 30 and December 1 @ 11:00pm
at the Whole Art Studio, 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall
Tickets \$5 each

Groups are recommended to call ahead and reserve seats since space is limited!


Posted by [CCN](#) at 6:00 PM No comments: 

Labels: [performance](#)

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Hruska Makes a Difference

The Selection Committee for the "WMU Make A Difference Award" has selected **Michelle Hruska** as one of the recipients for this recognition. The award, which honors "contributions and dedication to WMU," will be presented to Michelle by President Dunn later this month. Please join me in congratulating her!

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 3:33 PM No comments: 

EWC

This Friday, November 16th, from 1-5pm, Sigma Tau Delta will host the 2nd Annual English Writing Conference at the Bernhard Center, rooms 210-213 and the faculty lounge on the 2nd floor. We have an exceptional line-up of student panels planned; I have attached our current schedule of presentations for your convenience. From original fiction, poetry, and playwriting to literary theory and pedagogical studies, these panels will certainly demonstrate the high level of creative and academic work our English students are producing at WMU.

We cordially invite you and your students to attend the English Writing Conference and support the efforts of these remarkable presenters. This conference will allow the university and entire community to see the physical embodiment of the English department. We hope that you will enhance our image and endorse our students' efforts with your presence.

The conference will begin at 1pm with a brief introduction and history of the EWC and ESS in the 2nd floor faculty lounge of the Bernhard Center. Food and water will also be available at that time. Panels will run every hour: 1:10-1:50, 2:00-2:50, 3:00-3:50, 4:00-4:50pm. Schedules for each room will be posted outside of their respective doors; conference programs, Sigma Tau Delta information, and upcoming conference and publication opportunities for students will also be available in the faculty lounge.

Thank you for your continued support of Sigma Tau Delta and the English Writing Conference. If you have any questions about our organization or the EWC, please do not hesitate to contact Jen Dempsey at jennifer.l.dempsey@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday at the English Writing Conference!

Posted by [Theresa Thomas](#) at 10:49 AM No comments: 

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Swierenga Receives Dean's Award

Marianne Swierenga, Managing Editor of **New Issues Press**, is the recipient of the "Dean's Staff and Faculty Appreciation Award" for "great work done over the past year [...] above and beyond the call of duty." Congratulations!

Marianne received her B.A. from Hope College and her M.F.A. in poetry from Western Michigan University. She has been a fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and her poems and essays have appeared in the *Del Sol Review*, *Event*, *North American Review*, and elsewhere.

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 12:53 PM No comments: 

Monday, November 12, 2007

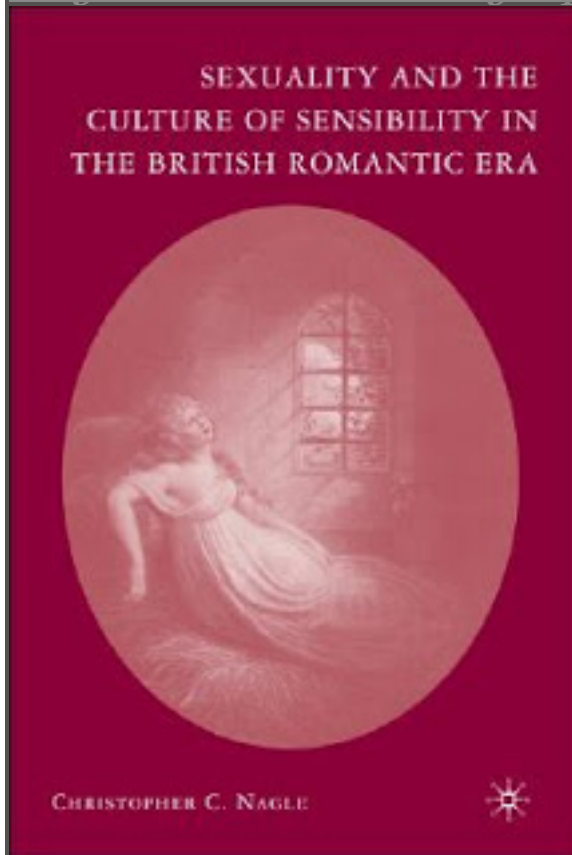
Utz on Rituals of Medieval Authorship

Richard Utz has recently published "Writing Alternative Worlds: Rituals of Authorship and Authority in Late Medieval Theological and Literary Discourse," *Creations: Medieval Rituals, The Arts, and the Concept of Creation*, ed. Sven Rune Havsteen, Nils Holger Petersen, Heinrich W. Schwab, and Eyolf Ostrem (Turnhout: Brepols, 2007), pp. 121-38.


Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 2:43 PM No comments: 

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Nagle Publishes Monograph




A new monograph by **Christopher Nagle**, *Sexuality and the Culture of Sensibility in the British Romantic Era*, has just been published by Palgrave, and is featured in the November (convention) issue of *PMLA*. For more information, including a description and pre-publication reviews, click [here](#).

Posted by [CCN](#) at 10:14 AM No comments: 

Dybek to be honored at Public Reception; Q&A to follow

Stuart Dybek passes on the following announcement. He especially wants our graduate students know that he will do a Q&A at this event and try and answer any questions about writing at WMU or any questions they have.

"Stuart Dybek will be honored at a festive public reception, with special refreshments and live music, on Friday, November 16, from 6:30-8:00 pm, at the Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S. Rose St. The libraries of Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and Davenport College, Portage District Library, Kalamazoo Public Library, and the Kalamazoo Gazette invite the entire community to celebrate Mr. Dybek's amazing achievement in receiving both a 2007 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and the 2007 Rea Award for the Short Story in the same week earlier this fall. KPL Director Ann Rohrbaugh will welcome guests to the reception shortly before 7:00 pm. Marsha Meyer, Portage District Library Adult Services librarian, and Western Michigan University representatives will also talk briefly. Mr. Dybek will then read from his work, answer questions from the audience, and sign his books. The Michigan News Agency will sell his books at the event. A native of Chicago, Dybek served Western Michigan University as a professor of English for 33 years, retiring from active teaching this past spring. According to a WMU News release, he 'remains closely connected to WMU as an adjunct faculty member, and he teaches in the university's renowned Prague Summer Program.' Dybek is now teaching at Northwestern University, as its first Distinguished Writer in Residence.-- Marsha Meyer, Portage District Library, 269-329-4542 ext. 710 mmeyer@portagelibrary.info."


Posted by Becky Beech at 9:36 AM No comments: 

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Russian Festival

The Kalamazoo Russian Festival, which annually attracts hundreds of people from throughout the Midwest to WMU, is Friday and Saturday, Nov. 9-10. The festival includes food, dance, music, crafts and a series of presentations by WMU faculty members. This event is cosponsored by the Department of English.

<http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2007/11/001.html>

Posted by Richard Utz at 8:37 AM No comments: 

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Victor LaValle events, November 14




The [Gwen Frostic Reading Series](#)

is pleased to present fiction writer Victor LaValle Wednesday, November 14. A short Q&A session with the author will begin at 3:30 that afternoon on the 10th floor of Sprau. LaValle's reading will be that evening at 8pm at the [Little Theater](#).

Victor LaValle is author of *Slapboxing with Jesus* (Knopf, 1999), which won the PEN/Open Book Award, and *The Ecstatic* (Crown, 2002), which was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Fiction Award. In 2004 he received a Whiting Writers' Award. He has been a fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and currently teaches creative writing at Columbia University.

Please join us for these, the last events in the Frostic Series this semester, and do encourage your students to attend.

Posted by [B. Marzoni](#) at 4:02 PM No comments: 

HISPANIC FILM FESTIVAL Fall 2007

1110 Trimpe Hall – Multicultural Center
November 13-15

Tuesday, November 13, 4:00 p.m.

The Spanish Earth (1937), 52 minutes

It has become one of the major films on the Spanish Civil war and one of the most important films in Ivens's career. Like in many other films, Ivens finds a balance between the daily lives of people and their struggle to survive. The strong photography, mainly by John Ferno, combined with the powerful editing by Helen van Dongen and the commentary of Ernest Hemingway, make the film a masterpiece of documentary film making.

Tuesday, November 13, 6:00 p.m.

La lengua de las mariposas (1999), 99 minutes

Spanish with English subtitles

La lengua de las mariposas (Butterfly) mourns the Spain destroyed by civil conflict by remembering it through the enchanted eyes of a small boy. Moncho is just old enough to begin attending public school. Moncho is blissfully unaware of the tense, political undercurrent that runs beneath his family and his country. He is content to while away his days in the idyllic countryside of Galicia, in northern Spain. There he divides his time between following his older brother's exploits in a local big band and chasing butterflies with his compassionate schoolteacher and mentor Don Gregorio.

Wednesday, November 14, 6:00 p.m.

Soldados de Salamina (2003), 119 minutes

Spanish with English subtitles

When professor and writer Lola Sánchez is assigned to write a column in the newspaper about the Spanish Civil war, she researches and finds for the first time about the shooting of Rafael Sánchez Mazas. Lola has lost her passion for writing, and she becomes intrigued about Rafael, who was a writer and journalist that returned to Spain from the Italy of Mussolini and was very active in the Spanish fascist party Falange Española.


Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 2:22 PM No comments: 

Dybek to be Honored at Public Reception



Award-winning author Stuart Dybek will be honored at a festive public reception, with special refreshments and live music, on Friday, November 16, from 6:30-8:00 pm, at the Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S. Rose St. The libraries of Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and Davenport College, Portage District Library, Kalamazoo Public Library, and the Kalamazoo Gazette invite the entire community to celebrate Mr. Dybek's amazing achievement in receiving both a 2007 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and the 2007 Rea Award for the Short Story in the same week earlier this fall. KPL Director Ann Rohrbaugh will welcome guests to the reception shortly before 7:00 pm. Portage District Library and Western Michigan University representatives will also talk briefly. Mr. Dybek will then read from his work, answer questions from the audience,

and sign his books. The Michigan News Agency will sell his books at the event. The MacArthur Foundation bestows the five-year grant of \$500,000, paid in quarterly installments, "to individuals who show exceptional creativity in their work and the prospect for still more in the future." The Foundation's website proclaims Dybek to be a "short story writer paying tribute to the literature and iconography of the Old World while exploring the imaginations of contemporary American communities." The day after receiving the MacArthur "genius grant," Dybek was selected winner of the 2007 Rea Award for the Short Story with an accompanying \$30,000 prize. "Sponsored by the Dungannon Foundation, The Rea Award for the Short Story was established in 1986 by the late Michael M. Rea to encourage short story writing by honoring a living American or Canadian writer who has made a 'significant contribution to the short story form'." A native of Chicago, Dybek served Western Michigan University as a professor of English for 33 years, retiring from active teaching this past spring. According to a WMU News release, he "remains closely connected to WMU as an adjunct faculty member, and he teaches in the university's renowned Prague Summer Program." Dybek is now teaching at Northwestern University, as its first Distinguished Writer in Residence.

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 9:33 AM No comments: 

Monday, November 5, 2007

Witschi at WLA




At the 42nd annual meeting of the Western Literature Association, held October 17-20 in Tacoma, WA, **Nicolas Witschi** presented a paper entitled "'Off the Reservation with Forty Kinds of War Paint On': Dime Novel Journalism, the Outlaw Henry Starr, and Native American Autobiography."

Also at this conference, Nic and **Dr. Karen Ramirez** of the University of Colorado at Boulder became co-Presidents of the Association, and together they now undertake the organizing of the 2008 conference, to be held in Boulder, CO, Oct. 1-4. Featured speakers will include William Kittredge and Patty Limerick, the Association's Distinguished Achievement Awards recipients for 2008, as well as a terrific array of scholars and creative artists. Moreover, in a collaboration with [The Center of the American West](#), the WLA conference will run concurrently with a community-based series entitled **Western Literature Week** that will feature prominent Colorado and western writers speaking publicly about their work. For more information about any of these events, check in regularly at [the official Western Literature Association website](#), where you will also find the [call for papers](#) for the 2008 conference.

Posted by [Nicolas Witschi](#) at 8:40 PM No comments: 

Third Coast Reading Series, November 9


The Third Coast Reading Series, which showcases the work of graduate students in the MFA and PhD in creative writing programs, is pleased to announce its return with a reading this Friday, November 9. So, come join us at 7:30 on the 10th floor of Sprau. The line-up--sure to please--includes fiction writer James Miranda, non-fiction writer Kate Dernocoeur, and fiction writer Melinda Moustakis.

Posted by [B. Marzoni](#) at 1:49 PM No comments: 

Bradburn Speaks at Two Conferences




Beth Bradburn presented "Invisible Bodies, Transparent Minds: Jeanette Winterson's *Written on the Body*" at the Theory of Mind and Literature Conference at Purdue University November 1-4, and "The Emergent Novel in *Paradise Lost*" at the Conference on John Milton in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, October 25-27.

Posted by [Beth Bradburn](#) at 11:09 AM No comments: 
Saturday, November 3, 2007

"Little Airplanes of the Heart" by Steve Feffer Nov. 11 and 12 at 5 PM

Steve Feffer's one act play "Little Airplanes of the Heart" will be presented in a full student directed and acted production in the York Arena Theatre in the Gilmore Complex Sunday and Monday November 11th and 12th at 5 Pm. The performances are free, general admission and open to the public. The play is presented as part of the WMU Theatre's Footlight Series and is directed by Leah Okraszewski, a theatre major who recently took part in the Prague Summer Program and has been a student in English Department playwriting workshops. "Little Airplanes of the Heart" tells the story of Uncle John's ill-fated flight in a homemade airplane from Cape Cod to Montana and the lasting effect it has on his family, especially his thirteen year old nephew Sam. The play has been published in *Best American Short Plays 97-98* (Applause Books) and *Plays From the Ensemble Studio Theatre 2000* (Faber and Faber).

Posted by [Steve Feffer](#) at 4:15 PM No comments: 
Friday, November 2, 2007

Brinkley, Schulman, Witschi, Walker Receive Dean's Award

Dean Tom Kent announced that Drs. **Ellen Brinkley**, **Jana Schulman**, **Nic Witschi**, and **Joyce Walker** were selected for the **Dean's Staff and Faculty Appreciation Award**. This award recognizes the great work done during an entire academic year by exemplary staff and faculty. Last week, Michelle Hruska received this award, which means that our department now boasts five recipients of this honor for AY 2006-2007. Congrats to all!

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 8:26 AM [No comments:](#) 

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Benefit Event for Julie Moulds Rybicki at Kraftbrau



Join us this Sunday for a reading, concert, and party held at Kraftbrau Brewery to benefit the NTA Great Lakes Bone Marrow Transplant Fund and provide relocation costs for New Issues poet Julie Moulds, author of *The Woman with the Cubed Head*.

Featuring the Poetry and Fiction of: Conrad Hilberry, Bonnie Jo Campbell, Bill Olsen, Nancy Eimers, Jack Ridl, Jackie Bartley, Rodney Torreson, Diane Seuss, David Dodd Lee, Elizabeth Kerlikowske, Danna Ephland, Gail Martin, Greg Rappleye, Dave Marlatt, Susan Ramsey, John Rybicki and Julie Moulds Rybicki and more.

Also Featuring: Irish music by Dave Marlatt and the Rambling Boys of Pleasure as well as American Roots Acoustic music by Solid Geometry and a Silent Auction of arts, crafts and signed books.

Where: Kraftbrau Brewery, 402 East Kalamazoo Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI. \$5 admission. Free food.

When: Sunday, November 4 from 3 to 7:30 p.m.

Posted by [New Issues Poetry & Prose](#) at 1:18 PM [No comments:](#) 

Labels: [New Issues](#), [Poetry Reading](#)

Abstracting Reality (Four short plays)

Mike Monje would like to announce the following performances at FIRE on Portage Road on Saturday, 11/3 and Saturday, 11/10. Abstracting Reality (details below) is directed by Andy Argo, one of our undergraduates, and features a play by Neely Shingledecker (undergraduate) as well as one by Mike Monje:

Abstracting Reality

Four short plays by Michigan Authors
Directed by Andy Argo
Featuring:

Baggage Claim

by Sara Snyder

What happens when picking up baggage at the airport takes a psychological turn?

T - Laura Wagner

Bo - Kyle Foster

The Reunion

by Michael Monje

The turmoil of an atheist son and his Christian fundamentalist mother.

Stephen - Joshua Graves

Catherine - Melissa Zinn

The Video Game

by Christine Kilpatrick

Ever wonder what those video game characters are doing when you're not playing with them?

Frank - Lucian MacDonald

Ed - Kyle Foster

Vignettes of Failure

by Neely Shingledecker

An absurd tale of love, marriage, sex, and attempted murder.

George - Chris Schwallie


Winnie - Lynn Holt

at FIRE, 1249 Portage Rd

Saturday, November 3rd and Saturday, November 10th

7pm and 8:30pm performances each evening


\$10; \$8 students/seniors

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 11:35 AM No comments: 

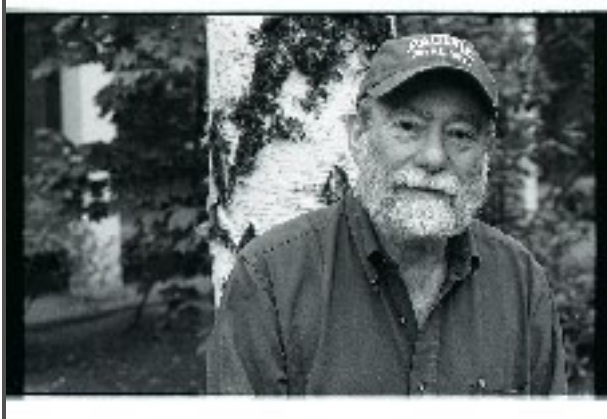
Monday, October 29, 2007

Jiang Receives Travel Grant

Graduate student Yan Jiang is the recipient of a highly competitive Graduate Student Research and Travel Grant from Western's Graduate College. Congratulations!

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 10:25 AM No comments: 
Sunday, October 28, 2007


Marvin Bell events, November 7



The [Gwen Frostic Reading Series](#) is pleased to present poet Marvin Bell next Wednesday, November 7. Bell will be speaking at a Q&A at 4pm on the 10th floor of Sprau. His reading will be at 8pm at the [Little Theater](#).

Author of nineteen collections of poetry and creator of a form known as the "dead man poem," for which he is both famous and infamous, Marvin Bell was for many years the Flannery O'Connor Professor of Letters at the Iowa Writers' Workshop and served two terms as the state of Iowa's first Poet Laureate. He now teaches for the brief-residency MFA based in Oregon at Pacific University. His most recent work includes *Iris of Creation*, *The Book of the Dead Man*, *Ardor*, *Nightworks: Poems 1962-2000*, *Rampant*, and his latest collection, *Mars Being Red*. The recipient of awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Academy of American Poets, the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the *American Poetry Review*, and *Poetry Magazine*, Bell has also held Senior Fulbright Appointments to Yugoslavia and Australia.

We hope you can join us for these events. Please encourage your students to attend.

Posted by [B. Marzoni](#) at 9:45 PM No comments: 
Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Hruska Wins College Appreciation Award



Dean Tom Kent has recently begun an initiative called the **Dean's Staff and Faculty Appreciation Award** to recognize the great work done during an entire academic year by exemplary staff and faculty. I am pleased (actually, I am tickled to death) to inform you that our very own **MICHELLE HRUSKA** has been awarded this honor. I quote from the dean's letter: "I know personally how you have performed well beyond the call of duty to help our students and staff." All of us agree, and Bethlynn was one of the first to congratulate, as you can see in the picture.

This prestigious award carries a cash prize of \$ 1,000. Please join me in congratulating Michelle on this wonderful honor.

rju

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 4:33 PM No comments: 
Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Robin Hemley Reads October 29




The [Gwen Frostic Reading Series](#) is pleased to present Robin Hemley next Monday, October 29. The reading will begin at 8pm at the [Little Theater](#).

Hemley, who is Director of the Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa, has published seven books of nonfiction and fiction. His latest, *Invented Eden, The Elusive, Disputed History of the Tasaday* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2003) was an American Library Association's Editor's Choice book for 2003. His other books include the memoir, *Nola: A Memoir Of Faith, Art And Madness* (Graywolf, 1998),

which won an Independent Press Book Award for Nonfiction; the novel, *The Last Studebaker* (Graywolf); and the story collections, *The Big Ear* (Blair) and *All You Can Eat* (Atlantic Monthly Press). His awards for his fiction include The Nelson Algren Award from the *Chicago Tribune*, The George Garrett Award for Fiction from *Willow Springs*, the Hugh J. Luke Award from *Prairie Schooner*, two Pushcart Prizes, and many others.

Please join us for this event and encourage your students to attend.

Posted by [B. Marzoni](#) at 4:29 PM No comments: 

Nagle Speaks at International Conference on Romanticism




Chris Nagle presented a paper, "The Traveling Pleasures (and Perils) of Sensibility: Ireland and Italy, Owenson and Staël," on a panel devoted to "The Object of Pleasure" at the 16th International Conference on Romanticism sponsored by Towson University and Loyola College in Baltimore, MD, on October 21, 2007.

Posted by [CCN](#) at 1:05 PM No comments: 

Sunday, October 21, 2007

Sigma Tau Delta Inductions

The Fall induction ceremony for Sigma Tau Delta went well. Thanks to all who attended. For those who didn't, you need not worry. We have Spring inductions too.

Posted by [Theresa Thomas](#) at 10:18 PM No comments: 

Saturday, October 20, 2007

Rossi Recognized as Distinguished Alumna

Francine Rossi, our department's 2007 Distinguished Alumna, was honored at the College of Arts and Sciences Reception on Friday, October 19, 2007. She attended the reception together with her husband, Gregory. Francine, who graduated from WMU



with a bachelor's degree (major: English; minor: Speech/Drama), achieved an outstanding career in consumer affairs, breaking the glass ceiling as director and owner of The American Center for Educational Development, Inc., and owner of AS-RA-TECHnologies, an environmental remediation company with contracts for the Department of Aviation (e.g., at O'Hare, Midway & Meigs Airports) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She has kept a close connection with Western since her graduation, culminating in

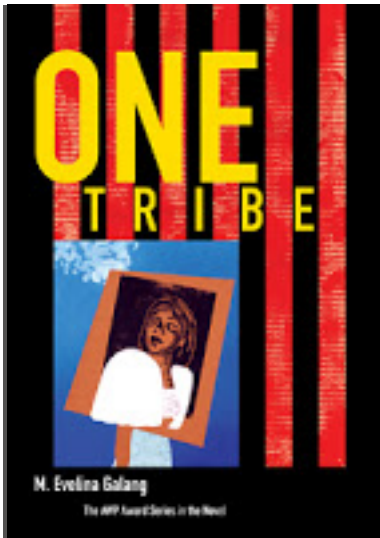


her six year service on the WMU Alumni Board of Directors. During the conversations she had with Drs. Meg Dupuis, Chari Thralls, and Richard Utz, she stressed how her education as a reader, writer, speaker, and editor (she was editor of the *Western Herald*) played a major role in reaching her career goals. English department students will get a chance to meet and speak with Francine in April, when she has promised to return to Western to share her experiences and speak about the many opportunities a thorough education in English studies provides.

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 9:52 AM No comments: 

Thursday, October 18, 2007

New Issues Titles Win Awards



One Tribe, the first AWP Novel Award Winner published with New Issues, has won the 2007 Global Filipino Literary Award for Fiction. *One Tribe* will be submitted to the Library of Congress and will receive a special catalog number for inclusion in the Global Filipino Literary Awards Collection housed permanently in the Library's Asian Reading Room.

Even more exciting, the book's author, M. Evelina Galang, was named one of the 100 most influential Filipina Women in the US by Filipina Women's Network and will be honored at the Filipina Summit (www.ffwn.org) in Washington D.C. next week. She'll be reading from *One Tribe* at the Library of Congress on Saturday.

David Keplinger's poetry book, *The Prayers of Others*, won the 2007 Colorado Book Award for Poetry at a special event last night (Oct. 17). His other book with New Issues, *The Clearing*, was a finalist for the same award last year.

Posted by [New Issues Poetry & Prose](#) at 4:31 PM No comments: 

Labels: [Awards](#), [New Issues](#), [Publishing](#)

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Sigma Tau Delta Fall Induction

Sigma Tau Delta's Fall induction will be 21 October, this Sunday at 2PM on the 10th floor of Sprau. The ceremony will recognize new and returning members to WMU's chapter of the International English Honor Society. This is a great time to honor students who excel in various English curriculums. If you need any more incentive than that, there will be cake and various assorted snacks.

Our new inductees for the fall are:

Sarah J. Anderson
Conor W. Burke
Eric B. Dial
Gregory A. Flynn
Caroline N. Lampinen
Patrick S. Love
Danielle N. Lutz

Amanda M. Lynch
Rebecca Paxon
Miranda L. Rosenberg
Ashley J. Russo
Amy P. Simon

You are more than welcome to attend the induction even if these are not your students. Please join us in welcoming these new members.

-Theresa, Sigma Tau Delta PR

Posted by [Theresa Thomas](#) at 10:26 PM No comments: 

English Writing Conference: Please Announce

Sigma Tau Delta's English Writing Conference

2007 Call for Papers

Submission Deadline: Friday, November 2

What can you do with a course paper after the class? Present it at the EWC!

Students may submit papers focusing on any topic connected to English studies.

Submissions may explore:

- novels, short stories, poems
- films, speeches
- linguistics
- theory
- original explications
- English studies pedagogical papers (though not lesson plans or teaching tips)

Original creative works are also encouraged.

All submissions must be presentable within a 15-minute time slot.

Prose submissions must be typed, double-spaced, in a standard 12-point font and should range from approximately 5 to 10 pages in length.

Poetry submissions must be typed in a standard 12-point font and may include a single poem or a group of poems. The submitted body of work should have a title.

Each person may submit up to two works in different genres for this conference.

Panel submissions are welcome. (Panels may include three or more participants from a single class presenting on similar topics/a single project, a pre-planned discussion on a particular text by three or more individuals, or another creative group presentation.)


Submissions may be emailed to: WMUSigmaTauDelta@gmail.com

Submissions must be received by 12 midnight on Friday, November 2.

Email Subject Line: EWC Submission.

Email Body: Your full name, title of the work(s), and contact information. (Working email is best.)

Submission attachment should be in: .doc format.

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 5:49 AM No comments: 


Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Wendy Wall "At Home with Shakespeare"



Prof. Wendy Wall, chair of the Department of English at Northwestern University, is the fifth annual *Comparative Drama* Distinguished Lecturer. Her talk, "At Home with Shakespeare," will be at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 25th, on the 10th floor of Sprau Tower.


This presentation examines the particular way that textiles in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Othello* signal contradictions in how domestic work was understood in the period. These plays make strikingly clear that domesticity was a site of creativity, power, and fantasy, comprising objects and activities whose meanings could not fully be controlled. As they exploit contradictions in household ideology, Shakespearean plays reveal creative tensions in how housework was used to structure--and to negotiate--communities and relationships.

Posted by [Meg Dupuis](#) at 11:01 PM No comments: 

Monday, October 15, 2007

Utz on Editorial Board of *Arthuriana*


Richard Utz has accepted an invitation to serve on the Editorial Board of *Arthuriana: The Journal of Arthurian Studies*. *Arthuriana* is the quarterly for the International Arthurian Society - North American Branch. It is dedicated to all aspects of the Arthurian story from its inception in the Middle Ages to its enactments in the present moment. The only academic journal in the world on Arthurian subjects, *Arthuriana* is poised on the cutting edge of current debates on Arthurian topics. Contributors to the journal consistently include the top scholars in the field, and the journal constantly seeks out new and innovative scholarship that brings fresh perspectives to Arthurian studies.

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 7:45 PM No comments: 

Tiffany's Edition of *Tempest* Forthcoming with Johns Hopkins

Grace Tiffany's edition of *The Tempest* has been bought by Johns Hopkins University Press, along with eight other single-play Shakespeare editions from other editors.

The editions will be issued as the Johns Hopkins University Press Shakespeare series.

Posted by [Grace Tiffany](#) at 6:54 PM No comments: 

Spring/Summer Achievement Summary

Thanks to **Arnie Johnston**, we can publish the following achievements by departmental students and faculty from this year's spring semester and summer:

Dancen Wardrop has won the Gerald Cable Book Award from Silverfish Review Press for her poetry collection, *The Odds of Being*.

Stuart Dybek has been chosen to receive The Mark Twain Award in 2007 for "distinguished contributions to Midwestern literature" from the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature at Michigan State University.

MFA student in poetry, **Kim Kolbe**, has a poem currently online at AGNI: <http://www.bu.edu/agni/poetry/online/2007/kolbe.html>.

Steve Feffer has won one of this year's New Jewish Theatre Commissions awarded by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Jewish Endowment for the Humanities. The grant will allow Steve to continue his work with a sponsoring theatre—in this case, the Whole Art—on *Ain't Got No Home*, his new play based on Chicago's legendary Chess Records.

Arnie Johnston's short play, *Roulette*, was a Finalist for Wilkes University's (Wilkes-Barre, PA) 2007 John C. Gardner Prize for the Two-Minute Play. Arnie and wife Debby Percy have adapted their short play *But If It Rage* into a screenplay that will be filmed this summer in Los Angeles by IntroSpec Pictures under the direction of Greg Siers.

Part-time colleague **Linda Dick** has written five biographies of literary characters-- *White Fang*, *Billie Joe (Out of the Dust)*, *Jonas (The Giver)*, *Cat in the Hat*, and *Summer (Missing May)*--for the forthcoming Student Companion to *American Literary Criticism*.

Undergrad major **Theresa Thomas** has received a Dean's Summer Thesis Research Award of \$2,500 from the Lee Honors College. Theresa's work will be supervised by faculty mentor Lisa Minnick.


Doctoral candidate **Ron Riecki** received a contract from Ghost Road Press to publish his novel *U.P.* in fall 2008. In the acceptance note, Matt Davis of Ghost Road Press wrote, "I am just going to start this off by saying that I love your book. *Hollow*, *Craig, J*, and *Antony* are so compelling and their voices are so real that I found myself re-reading chapters and sections just to experience their words again. I think this is the perfect book for Ghost Road Press and would like to offer you a contract to publish if the ms is still available. Please let me know...if it is I will draft an offer and send it to you as soon as I hear back. The book would be set to come out for Fall 2008." I'm going over the contract right now and may ask (beg) for some changes based especially off of some minor points (that may be major) that Robert Eversz

passed on to me. U.P. was previously nominated for the Sewanee Writers' Series by National Book Award winner John Casey and it actually won, set to be published with Overlook Press (a subsidiary division of Penguin Putnam), but they pulled out last minute, so it is great that I have found another publisher for the book at this time. You can also add to the Bulletin that I just worked for VH1's I Love New York 2. (I Love New York set the record for highest Nielsen rating in the history of VH1.) And also I'm going into a studio in Detroit on June 1 as a comedy writer with five other comedy writers from Chicago to write Second City style sketches for the next album to be released by the Artfull Dodgers. (Gozza from the Artfull Dodgers appeared on VH1's egotrip's "The (White) Rapper Show." I'm talking with VH1 about working for them in L.A. for the remainder of the summer and I fly out on Wednesday for a job interview with a Florida college, so a ton going on. Oh, and Abstraction Theatre is doing a staged reading and production of Good Behavior. Ron :)

Jon Adams has received official word from the University of Virginia Press that his book has been accepted for publication and is scheduled for a Fall 2008 release. The MS is currently with UVA's 'cultural studies' series editor (Robert Newman, dean of Humanities at the University of Utah), as it will likely be included in that series. The contract is forthcoming.

For the fourth consecutive summer, Western Michigan University's Departments of Theatre and English collaborated to stage readings of a series of exciting new plays. This year's New Play Project—under the guidance of **Steve Feffer** and Theatre Department colleague Mark Liermann—included fifteen student-written plays selected for development with a company of fourteen student actors, directors, and stage managers. The plays ran the theatrical gamut from an apocalyptic love story set beneath a clock that is either "counting down the end of the world or the time it takes to bake a potato"—to a parody of modern art centered on Duchamp's "The Fountain." The readings took place during May and June in the Zack L. York Arena Theatre in the Gilmore Theatre Complex. "The Fountain" by Alyse Castillo, "Deja Vu Goodbye" by Chris Bell, "After Wilson" by Mike Monje, "Everybody Gets Fifteen Minutes" by Max Clark, "Ham and Cheese Omelet" by Leah Okraszewski.

Janet Heller's illustrated children's book, *How the Moon Regained Her Shape*, was selected as a Children's Choice of 2007. For the complete Western News story, go to <http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2007/05/044.html>. And a short time later the Publishers Marketing Association chose *How the Moon Regained Her Shape* as the winner of the 2007 Benjamin Franklin Award in the category of Interior Design, three or more colors—Children's/Young Adult. Janet's article "The Nature of Learning in Garrison Keillor's 'Drowning 1954' and 'After a Fall'" was published in *MidAmerica* 32 (2005). She also made several presentations at the May 2007 Symposium on the Cultural Heritage of the Midwest at Michigan State University in East Lansing: "Letters Home from a Map-Maker for General Patton" (an analysis of her father's war letters and autobiography), "Rummage Sale" (a poetry reading), and "Returning to Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin" (a creative nonfiction essay). Congratulations, Janet!

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 4:29 PM No comments: 

Teaching Assistants Announced for Prague Summer Program 2008

The following students have been selected as Teaching Assistants for the Prague Summer Program, June 28 to July 25, 2008:

Melinda Moustakis, fiction
Michael Davis, fiction
Kathy Zlabek, fiction
Shannon Jonas, poetry
Kory Shrum, poetry
Kate Dernocoeur, multi-genre
Marin Heinritz, nonfiction
Paul Goff, scriptwriting
Meghann Meeusen, culture studies

The Teaching Assistants are integral to the success of the Prague Summer Program, and are at the heart of the Program's unique structure. Each is, in effect, the workshop manager in her or his group. In the weeks preceding arrival in Prague, she or he gathers, online, the materials to be critiqued over at least the first one or two sessions of the first week, and for at least the first session of the third week. Since non-credit-seeking students may participate for either the first two weeks or the second two weeks of the program, the logistics of gathering and disseminating student materials is particularly challenging, and must occur during the time leading up to everyone's arrival in Prague, when they are often least communicative due to travel.


Once the program begins, the TAs keep attendance records for the workshops, the lecture series and the Ypsilon Reading Series (Czech spelling); they also keep records of the work that is critiqued in the workshops. Because the classes are composed of students at different experience levels, the TAs conduct tutorials with neophyte poets, fiction and nonfiction writers and playwrights outside of class.

Because most of the workshops have two mentors, one the first two-week session and another the second, the TAs must coordinate the transition. Because none of the mentors is an instructor of record for grades (they suggest grades to the program director, who is the instructor of record, and he factors those suggestions into the final evaluation which includes his judgment of each credit seeker's performance on a final essay, and on the attendance record supplied by the credit seeker's TA), the TAs' reports to the program director are crucial. TAs are the program director's representatives in the workshops.

TAs in the Prague Summer Program are indeed integral to success, but they also themselves benefit greatly from fulfilling their roles. They gain valuable experience in pedagogy, managing groups of individuals being mentored by some of the finest writers and teachers of writing in the world. Of course, they also benefit as aspiring artists from having their own work critiqued by those mentors. In addition, they learn valuable lessons regarding the practical aspects of arts management. Finally, they

benefit in the same sense as every other PSP participant should, from living for a month in one of the world's most beautiful and culturally rich cities, having their own language, their American-ness, their very sense of what it is to be an artist, defamiliarized, re-contextualized.

Richard Katrovas
Professor of English & Founding Director,
Prague Summer Program

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 1:05 PM No comments: 

CFP Writing the Midwest

CALL FOR PAPERS AND READINGS

The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature invites you to participate in its 38th Annual Symposium:


Writing the Midwest: A Symposium of Scholars, Creative Writers, and Filmmakers

May 8-10, 2008, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature is devoted to the study and production of Midwestern literature in whatever directions the insight, imagination, and curiosity of the members may lead. The SSML annual symposium brings together writers, scholars, and filmmakers to present criticism, poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and films.

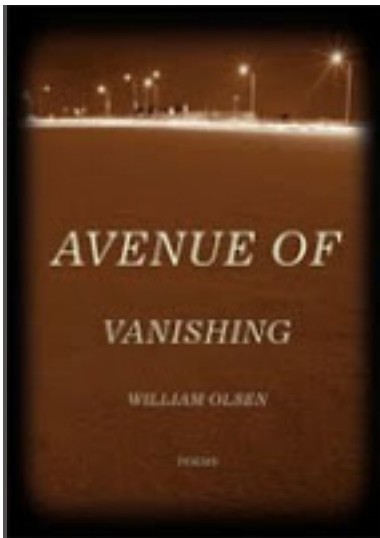
We welcome proposals for individual papers, panels, and roundtables on Midwestern literature, and reading of creative work with a Midwestern emphasis. Filmmakers are encouraged to propose the screening of films with Midwestern subject matter.

Information at: <http://www.ssml.org>

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 10:00 AM No comments: 


Thursday, October 11, 2007

Northwestern Nominates Olsen



Northwestern University Press has nominated Bill Olsen's *Avenue of the Vanishing* for both a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award.

Olsen is a recipient of fellowships through the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Breadloaf. His three previous collections of poetry are *The Hand of God and a Few Bright Flowers*, *Vision of a Storm Cloud*, and *Trouble Lights*.

Posted by [Richard Utz](#) at 12:54 PM No comments: 

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