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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English

11 Footnotes

A Newsletter for Friends of the Department of English

Alumnus Joe Gross

Joe Gross received a Master of Fine Arts in Literature and Creative Writing from Western Michigan University in 2010, along with the departmental Research/Creative Scholar



Award. Since December, 2009, his essays, poems, and stories have appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Atticus Review*, *Cider Press Review*, *Foundling Review*, *Fourth Genre*, *Eclectica Magazine*, *Mid-American Review*, *Redivider*, *Salamander*, *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *Summerset Review*, and *Tipton Poetry Journal*. He has a new essay forthcoming in *Ninth Letter*.

After a year of adjunct teaching at WMU and Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Joe has been hired as the Assistant Director and Youth Librarian of the Ransom District Library in Plainwell, Michigan. There he leads writing workshops for adults and children, runs a free guitar club for all

ages, gets lost in the stacks, reads to the pre-K crowd from an oversized rocking chair, and has learned about more kinds of glue than he ever thought existed.

Joe still lives in Kalamazoo with his wife, Angela, and their two children (Isaac and Sofia, ages 2 and 5).



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Chair's Corner



Dear Friends:

It's been a tremendous year in the WMU English Department. Let me begin with some farewells: We've been privi-

leged to honor the retirements and careers of four outstanding faculty: Beth Amidon, a dedicated and loyal teacher and faculty member who exemplifies dedication to students and commitment to teaching excellence (and, I might add, she's the editor of this newsletter, too); Tom Bailey, a legendary figure and public scholar at WMU who has served our department, university, and our community for over 40 years; Ellen Brinkley, the founder and guiding force of the Third Coast Writing Project, an organization that has directly affected hundreds of local teachers and their students; and Jaimy Gordon, one of the most recognized and accomplished fiction writers in the 110 year history of WMU. We're going to miss all of them. Together, these four outstanding scholars and teachers dedicated nearly 140 years of service to our department, and I offer them our fondest wishes in the next stages of their lives.

We also say goodbye to Richard Utz, professor and our former department chair, who is leaving to become chair of the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture at Georgia Institute of Technology. We wish the best for Richard and give our thanks for his leadership and dedication to our department.

One of the highlights for me this past year was our annual awards ceremony, where we were proud to host our distinguished alumna, Bonnie Jo Campbell. Bonnie Jo gave a talk to our students and recounted her journey towards English studies and writing; later, she also read from recent novel, *Once Upon A River*, to a packed audience in WMU Bernhard Center. Even more exciting that evening, though, was having the opportunity to reward and celebrate all our students' achievements. Thanks to our many departmental supporters and our faculty, we were able to give awards to nearly fifty outstanding students – freshman through senior; first year MA to finishing PhD – for their excellence in academic and creative writing, literary studies, service, and teaching. I cannot overemphasize the quality of the

students we are privileged to teach. We could have given many more awards: every day – in our classroom discussions and in-print – we are amazed at what our students are able to accomplish. Congratulations to all our award winners, and thank you to all those that support our departmental awards and help us recognize these students.

Despite financial challenges, both at the state and in the university, the English Department is going strong. During this past year, we not only served over 1,200 English majors and minors, but also produced nearly 30,000 student credit hours to students in all majors throughout WMU. In addition, our faculty published 11 books and edited collections, 25 peer-reviewed articles, and 30 book reviews or editorials, 27 creative publications, and more presentations, workshops, and public readings than I can count. We have also continued to expand our online and extension campus offerings and expanded our first-year writing program to include students from the Haworth College of Business. In addition, we underwent a complete revamping of our old Practical Writing major/minor and unveiled a new cutting-edge replacement: Rhetoric and Writing Studies. This newly revised major is poised to become an important program that bridges the humanities with professional communication. We also continued to contribute to the greater Kalamazoo community through our Frostic Creative Writing series, our participation in the WMU Humanities for Everybody program, and with our public scholarly speakers' talks.

Great things are on the horizon as we welcome in one of our largest classes of incoming graduate students in nearly a decade and continue to refine and build our undergraduate curriculum to enhance our students' undergraduate experiences.

Thanks for all your support.

Collegially,

Student News

Rachel Swearingen's short story, "Mitz's Theory of Everything Series" (originally published in *Agni*) was chosen for the anthology *New Stories from the Midwest 2012*. It will appear in spring 2013.

Congratulations to **Natalie Giarratano**, (poetry Ph.D. candidate), one of her poems has been selected for publication in *Hadyden's Ferry Review*, Fall/Winter 2011-2012, Issue 49. "Asena, the Gray Wolf, to Tu Kueh after Many Years."

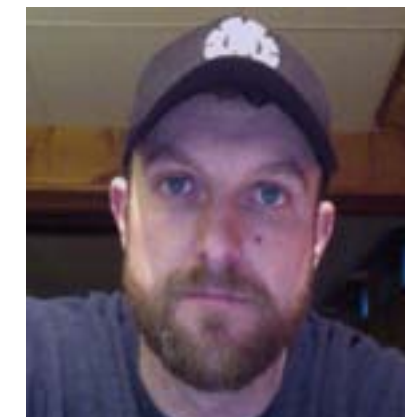
Dustin Hoffman has some wonderful news to report. These are the publications that have happened in the last year:



"Can-Picking," forthcoming in *Phoebe*, February (2012).
"The Fire Chasers," forthcoming in *Blue Mesa Review*.
"Building Walls," forthcoming in *Puerto del Sol*.
"Subdivision Accidents," forthcoming in *Witness*.
"The Plumber who Found Treasure," *Hobart*, July (2011).
"Seven-Eighths," *Artifice*, 3 (2011): 43-52.
"Strong as Paper Men," *Copper Nickel*, 15 (2011): 39-54.

"I've reported 'Strong as Paper Men' to Footnotes before, but it just got nominated for next year's Pushcart Prize, which I haven't reported. This story was used as the University of Colorado Denver Common Reading text for their incoming freshman, which is why they had me out to Denver to read to their students in the fall," Hoffman says. "Then, one lonely poetry publication: 'Amateur Paleontologist Stumbles into My Foot,' forthcoming in *Monkeybicycle*."

One of our WMU Ph.D. students in Medieval Studies, **Keith Russo**, just published his first essay, based on his experience as a classroom teacher at the IMG Pendleton School in Bradenton, FL. Two years ago, Keith co-edited (with Richard Utz and Christine Havens) an essay cluster on Culture and the Medieval King, in *UNiversity: The University of Northern Iowa Journal of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity*.



Recently-published work by **Brandon Jennings**, (3rd year fiction PhD):
Black Warrior Review: "Operation Toe Breaker"
R.kv.r.y.: "Paul Maidman~Banana Man"
Monkeybicycle: "Boots"

Also, his story that won the Curbside Splendor Prize last year, "Doc the Fifth," was nominated for a Pushcart. And he's had a couple other pieces accepted for publication in the coming year at *Hayden's Ferry Review* and *Passages North*.

2nd year MFA student **Elissa Cahn's** has two stories accepted for publication: "Head of the Dragon" in *NANO Fiction* and "Hanging Man" in *Midwestern Gothic*.

Alumni News

PhD (2008) alum **Peter Geye**'s second novel is to be published this fall by Unbridled Books. *The Lighthouse Road* tells the story of a young Norwegian immigrant woman and her misbegotten son at the turn of the twentieth century. Set against the northern Minnesota wilderness and on the waters of Lake Superior, it explores the themes of love and family and what it means to make an honest living in a corrupt world. Geye's first novel, *Safe from the Sea*, won the Indie Lit Award and the Northeastern Minnesota Book Award.

Dave Dempsey (BA '77 and our 2011 Distinguished Alumnus) and his brother, Jack, have co-authored *Ink Trails: Michigan's Famous and Forgotten Authors*. It comes out from MSU Press this fall.

More Student News



Dan Toronto's story "Two-Track" was accepted for publication in *The Louisville Review*.

Laurie Cedlinik, (1st year fiction PhD) has had a productive year: "Since I've arrived here, I've had a story come out in *Cimarron Review*, 'Do This in Memory of Me,' and have another forthcoming in *West Branch*, "Wake Turbulence." I was also a finalist for the Black River Chapbook prize in Fiction."

Rachel Kincaid, (1st year fiction MFA) was published in *The Wide Net*, and Glenn Shaheen was interviewed in the same issue (by Franklin Cline, if we're going to be full disclosure in terms of department participation). She also had a quasi-joke internet publication in rap blog that is technically fiction, "but I don't know how seriously people who aren't me will take that."

Dan Mancilla (3rd year fiction PhD) has a story out in the current issue of the *White Whale Review 4.1*, called "Solista".

Myltazaire K. Cobb, an elementary education major, has been awarded the University's 2012 Excellence in Diversity Award. Professor Toby Kahn-Loftus nominated Cobb for work produced in their English 3690 class.



Faculty News



Dean Alex Enyedi has announced that **Eve Salisbury** has been awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Award in Research and Creative Activities.

Salisbury was honored, along with other awardees, at an open house event in March 2012 at the University Center for the Humanities.

Salisbury also presided over a session organized by the Division on Middle English Language and Literature, Excluding Chaucer at the 127th Annual MLA Convention in Seattle, held January 5-8, 2012, entitled Medieval Drama and Performative Theology.

A Companion to the Literature and Culture of the American West (Wiley-Blackwell 2011), edited by **Nicolas S. Witschi**, has been named by *Choice* as an Outstanding Academic Title for 2011. According to the official notice posted online, "Every year, *Choice* subject editors single out for recognition the most significant print and electronic works reviewed in *Choice* during the previous calendar year. Appearing annually in *Choice*'s January issue, this prestigious list of publications reflects the best in scholarly titles and attracts extraordinary attention from the academic library community. The 2011 feature includes 629 titles in 54 disciplines and subsections."

Witschi has also been commissioned by the Bank of America's Art in Our Communities program to write the official companion essay for an exhibition showcasing art, artifacts and images of the American West.

The Bank of America created the Art in Our Communities program in order to increase community stability through the support of museums and nonprofit galleries. It lends communities the use of special exhibitions in its expansive corporate collection at no cost. The exhibition, titled "Searching the Horizon: The Real American West 1830-1920," focuses on both the common mythologies and the realities of the American West.

Allen Webb just scored a book publishing "hat trick"—three books at once! All three books focus on contemporary topics in the teaching of English.

Teaching Literature in Virtual Worlds: Immersive Learning in English Studies, *Teaching Literature of Today's Middle East* and a third book, *Teaching to Exceed the English Language Arts Common Core Standards: A Literacy Practices Approach for 6-12 Classrooms*. Webb is a co-author (along with Richard Beach and Amanda Thein) of the third book which sets forth meaningful and exciting ways for teachers across the country to address the new curriculum standards (adopted by 44 states).



Grace Tiffany's article, "Shakespeare's Parables," a version of which was presented at the 2011 Renaissance Prose conference at Purdue, will be published in the upcoming issue of the journal *Reformation*.

Continued on Pg. 6

More Faculty News

Casey McKittrick presented “An Eye For a Stomach: Appetite-Epistemologies in Rear Window” upon invitation by the Critical Michigan Association of Screen Studies at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in February.

He also presented a paper, “Hitchcock’s Appetites: Gender, Hunger and Identification,” at the International Society for the Study of Narrative conference in Las Vegas in March.

Chris Nagle’s essay on Letitia Elizabeth Landon (known as ‘L.E.L.’ to her contemporaries) is part of the recently released *Encyclopedia of Romantic Literature* published by Wiley-Blackwell under the general editorship of Frederick Burwick. The three-volume project is described as “an authoritative resource that covers British artistic, literary, and intellectual movements between 1780 and 1830, within the context of European, transatlantic and colonial historical and cultural interaction.”



Nagle recently returned from a conference on “Queer Temporalities” held at the Humanities Institute of Ireland, University College Dublin, where he was invited to discuss the recent work of Elizabeth Freeman, whose *Time Binds* conceptualizes chrononormativity, temporal drag, and erotohistoriography, offering one of the most important interventions in queer theory and cultural studies of the past decade.

A collaborative project at Western Michigan University, sponsored by the Medieval Institute, will negotiate the resonances of medieval culture in a modern North American city. The project leaders are **Richard Utz** (English) and Elizabeth C. Teviotdale (Medieval Institute).

Clifford Davidson, ed., with commentary on the dialect by Paul A. Johnston, Jr., has a recent publication: *The York Corpus Christi Plays*, Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 2011. (Dedicated to the memory of Diether Haenicke). And Davidson has a reprint/revised edition of *A Treatise of Miraculis Pleynges* (Medieval Institute Publications, 2011) just out with an appendix on the dialect by Paul Johnston.

Alumni Bookshelf

Have you published a book?

Would you like to inspire Western’s future writers?

Please consider donating a copy of your book(s) to our new alumni bookshelf. We are planning a permanent display our alumni’s work.



2011 Department of English Awards



Distinguished Alumna Achievement Award:
Bonnie Jo Campbell

Chair’s Distinguished Service Award:
Elizabeth P. Amidon

David C. Czuk Award:
John Abbott

Presidential Scholar Award:
Christopher J. Hart

George Sprau Awards:
William D. Cope
Jonathan D. Current
Christopher J. Hart

Herbert Scott Award for Excellence in Poetry:
John Withee

Frostic Poetry Awards

Undergraduate Winner:
Brian Bender

Undergraduate Honorable Mention:
Claire Robbins

Graduate Winner:
Natalie Giarratano

Graduate Honorable Mention:
Laurie Ann Cedilnik

Frostic Fiction Awards

Undergraduate Winner:
Claire Robbins

Undergraduate Honorable Mention:
Tom Smith

Graduate Winner:
Laure Ann Cedilnik

Graduate Honorable Mention:
Daniel K. Toronto

Bruno Schulz Undergraduate Fiction Award:
Tom Smith

Gordon Prize for Graduate Fiction:
David M. Johnson

Arnie Johnston Award:
Conor McShane

Frostic Playwriting Awards



Undergraduate Winner:
Kelsey Pretzer

Undergraduate Honorable Mention
Katina Marguerite Donohue

Graduate Winner:
G. William Zorn

Graduate Honorable Mention:
Adam Pasen

Frostic Creative Nonfiction Awards

Undergraduate Winner:
Michelle Repke

Graduate Winner:
Laurie Ann Cedilnik

Graduate Honorable Mention:
Brandon Davis Jennings

Undergraduate Frederick J. & Katherine Rogers Memorial Shakespeare Award:
Benjamin A. Moran

William R. Brown Award Winner:
Benjamin A. Moran



William R. Brown Award Honorable Mention:
Matt Ftacek

Ralph N. Miller Memorial Award:
Grace Brockway

2011 Department of English Awards Cont.

Patrick D. Hagerty Promising Scholars:
Kalani B. Bates
Richard Carbonneau



Jean & Vincent Malstrom
Scholarship:
Ian B. Hollenbaugh

Nash Scholarship in English
Education:
Rachel M. Bouma
John D. Kreider

Diversity Studies Essay Awards:
Kalani B. Bates
Ross P. Landers

Van Rheen Award for Excellence in Teaching Col-
lege Writing:
Courtney Brandt
Krystal Howard

English Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Awards

Master's Level Winner:
Krystal Howard



Master's Level Honorable
Mention:
Courtney Brandt

Doctorate Level:
Kristin Sovis

Department Graduate Re-
search & Creative Scholar
Awards

Master's Level:
David M. Johnson

Doctorate Level:
Dustin Hoffman

Bernadine P. Carlson Prize for Professional Writing:
Alexandria S. Sullivan

Excellence in Rhetoric & Writing Studies:
Lacey Nicole Johnson

English Language & Linguistics Award:
Micah Carlson
Alana Springsteen

Edward L. Galligan
Memorial Scholarship
in American Literature:
Cody J. Mejeur

Elizabeth Smith McK-
etta Scholarship:
Josh P. Blanchard



Linda Christensen Award:
Tamra Y. Lunford
Amberose L. Nolan
Amanda M. Sproule

Adolescent Literature Award:
Sara Carroll

Sigma Tau Delta Outstanding Service Award:
Jacob Swanson

Sigma Tau Delta Honorary Faculty Inductee:
Todd Kuchta

English 1050 Best Essay Awards:
Kathleen J. Cooper
Joseph D. Dely
Chelsea Matias
Emma McLaren
Adam O'Neill

College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Achievement
in Research and Creative Activity:
Eve Salisbury



2011 WMU Distinguished
Service Award:
Tom Bailey

2011 WMU Distinguished
Faculty Scholar:
Katherine Joslin

2012-13 WMU Dissertation Completion Fellowship:
Renee Lee Gardner

Phi Beta Kappa

We are pleased to inform you that the following students from the English Department have been invited to join the oldest academic honor society in the United States, founded in 1776.

Congratulations to these students.



Clark E. Brooks

Maureen E. Pfaff

Holly J. Deal

Michelle M. Repke

Karen A. Frederick

Andrew L. Rhodes

Christopher J. Hart

Alexandria S. Sullivan

Ross P. Landers

Jennifer L. Wiley

Jake W. Larson

Conor J. McShane

Helena Witzke



Become a friend of the Department of English!

Alumni gifts make possible the extra margin of excellence. Your donations help us attract and keep top faculty, recruit the best graduate students, support undergraduates with scholarships and prizes, and play a leading role on the national scene with conferences, lectures and symposia. You can be a special part of the Department of English's 500 friends.

For a contribution of \$100, you can be among the special groups of supporters of the programs that make our department special. Your name will be inscribed on a plaque displayed in the department's central office on the 6th floor of Sprau Tower.

If you would like to make a donation, please make your check out to Western Michigan University Foundation, Department of English and send it to WMU Gift Processing, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5403, or visit www.wmich.edu/foundation/gift/index.html and select "English"

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Department Development Coordinator

Kelly Phillips, Intern

Grace Tiffany

Daneen Wardrop

Steve Feffer

Richard Utz



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English

What's New With You?

Please tell us where you are and what you're doing. We would love to include you in our next alumni update section.

Email us at engl_news@wmich.edu and include the year and degree with which you graduated, any fond memories of the English department, as well as something you've done since your times as a Bronco.