2008 Complete Digest

Department of English

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New: One Act Play Award

Arnie Johnston and Western Michigan University Undergraduate One Act Play Award

The English Department and Creative Writing Program of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan are pleased to announce an award for a new one act play by an undergraduate student currently enrolled in a college or university in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio or Wisconsin. The winning play will be presented in a public script-in-hand workshop production as part of Western Michigan University’s New Play Project, a summer festival of new student plays co-produced with the University’s Theatre Department (May 4 – June 24, 2009). The winning playwright will work closely with a production team that includes a director, dramaturg, and two Western faculty members to further develop the play. The playwright will be provided with travel to and from Kalamazoo, a three day-two evening stay to attend rehearsals of the play and its production, meals, and a $500.00 honorarium.

Eligible plays have not been produced or published and are between ten (10) and thirty-five (35) pages in standard playscript format. Upon selection, the playwright must be able to verify current enrollment status and be available to attend rehearsals and production of the play at Western Michigan University.

Submissions must be postmarked no later than February 1st, 2009. Submissions will not be returned. Please send submissions to Dr. Steve Feffer, English Department/Creative Writing Program, Sprau #909, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5331. Undergraduate and graduate playwrights in Western Michigan University’s Creative Writing Program have numerous production opportunities in collaboration with WMU’s Theatre Department and vibrant local theatre scene, as well as participation in the internationally renowned Prague Summer Program. Its graduate and undergraduate programs offer B.A., M.F.A., and Ph.D. degrees, with specialization in choice of four genres: playwriting, fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction.

For more information on playwriting at Western Michigan University go to [www.wmich.edu/english/creativewriting/playwriting.html](http://www.wmich.edu/english/creativewriting/playwriting.html) or [www.wmich.edu/english/creativewriting/](http://www.wmich.edu/english/creativewriting/)

The Arnie Johnston One Act Play Award is named in honor of the recent retirement of WMU English Department Chair and distinguished playwright Arnie Johnston, who began teaching graduate playwriting at WMU in 1975. Arnie Johnston’s plays include the recent Chicago hit Lonesome Losers of the Night and Duets, a newly published collection of one acts (written with his wife Deborah Ann Percy).

For more information on the Arnie Johnston Western Michigan University One Act
Play Award or B.A., M.F.A or Ph.D. playwriting at Western Michigan University, please contact Dr. Steve Feffer, steve.feffer@wmich.edu.

Posted by Richard Utz at 10:05 AM No comments:

Monday, December 22, 2008

holiday greetings

Holiday greetings to all friends of the english department @ Western Michigan University!

Posted by Richard Utz at 1:28 PM No comments:

Thursday, December 18, 2008

Arnie Johnston's The Witching Voice

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Scotland’s greatest poet:

The Witching Voice:
A Novel from the Life of Robert Burns

by Arnold Johnston

ISBN: 978-0-916727-44-4
Quality Paperback with French flaps • $18.95 • 332 pages
Glossary of Scottish Terms • 15 Period engravings

To order: www.wingspress.com
Publication Date: January 25, 2009
(250th birthday of Robert Burns)

Posted by Richard Utz at 3:41 PM No comments:

Saturday, December 13, 2008

Dept. Alum screening film at local theater
Local man's film to play at Kalamazoo 10

Kalamazoo Gazette
Friday, December 12, 2008
BY EARLENE MCMICHAEL

KALAMAZOO -- It's rare that a small-film maker has his work appear in the same theaters as blockbuster movies.

But next week, for one showing only, that is just what's going to happen for 1997 Community Medal of Arts winner Chuck Bentley, an independent producer and director from Kalamazoo. It is the first time he has presented his work in a movie theater.

Showtime for "A Postcard from Ireland," about interesting locations in Ireland, is scheduled for 8 p.m. Wednesday at Kalamazoo 10 in Oshtemo Township. Admission is free and the public is invited. A reception will be held at 7 p.m.

Over the years, Bentley and his wife, Donna Kaminski, have created what he calls "travel essays" about cities in England, Italy, France, the Netherlands and the United States.

While his wife assists with some filming, Bentley said he does double-duty, both filming and acting as host on-camera. He said his travelogues have "a very artistic aspect" because the images are shot with a long lens and the final product is set to music.

"What I do is attempt to bring the viewer right with me on location," said Bentley, in an interview Thursday. "With so many travelogues, someone else is shooting with the camera and someone else is on camera."

In January, Bentley's "A Postcard from China" also will play at Kalamazoo 10.

Both films are in theaters thanks to assistance from the Community Access Center in Kalamazoo, which typically airs his films, Bentley said.

Each video features original music composed and performed by Randon Myles Chisnell, with vocals by Catherine Sugas and Christopher MacLean Nagle, all of whom are Kalamazoo residents.

[** NOTE: a live performance by the trio is slated for the screening on 12/17 **]
Bronco Playwrights Stampede into Kennedy Center
American College Theatre Festival

Four graduate students from the Creative Writing Program have been selected by the National Playwriting Program of the Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival to have their plays presented at the KC/ACTFs prestigious regional festival, being held this year in Saginaw, Michigan January 6 - 11. The plays were four of the thirteen total that were selected from over one hundred and fifty entries that were submitted in three categories: ten minutes, one acts and full lengths.

Sunday, January 4th at 7 PM at the Whole Art Studio Space, 246 Kalamazoo Mall, there will be a benefit for the playwrights to raise money in support of their trip to the festival. There will be a reading of each of the short plays and scenes from the full length, as well as Dionysian revelry. More details will follow (except about the Dionysian revelry).

The plays and playwrights are:

MFA playwright Kris Peterson's play "Gun Metal Blue Bar" is one of the region's six ten minute plays. Additionally, Kris's play has been selected for a reading at the Mid-American Theatre Conference that will be held in March in Chicago. In Kris's play, Ricky's looking to get paid for a few weeks of hard work around Henry's racing pigeon lofts. However, one final gruesome act is separating Ricky from the money he needs to rescue his late father's cuff links from the pawn shop.

MFA playwright Karen Wurl's "Now and At the Hour Of" and MFA playwright Jason Lenz's "The Switch Room" are two of the six one act plays. Karen's play was originally presented at WMU as part of FUSE ONE.

In Wurl's "Hour," a middle-aged woman revisits 1977, a motel room, and a lost love, in an attempt to recover a lost self.

In Jason's play, Gus and Sam have an important job to do: flip the large switch in the switch room, at the second specified to them by the government, with no knowledge of what is being set in motion by the ambiguous lever. The problem is that today Gus and Sam are beginning to question what the switch actually does once activated.

Recent Ph.D creative writing program graduate Christine Iaderosa's play The Sins of Kalamazoo is the sole full length play to be presented. Christine’s play will be presented in a full production later this year at the Whole Art Theatre. The Sins of Kalamazoo is a loose adaptation of the Carl Sandburg poem with reminiscence of the lost past of Americana and the failed promise of yesteryear.

The plays will be presented at the festival and then responded to by a panel of theatre
professionals that this year includes Aaron Carter from Chicago’s Victory Gardens Theatre and Roger Hall, the Kennedy Center’s National Playwriting Program Chair.

The Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival provides opportunities for over 18,000 theatre students and faculty throughout the country. English Department Professor Steve Feffer serves as the Vice Chair for the KCACTF III National Playwriting Program. For more information please contact Dr. Steve Feffer at steve.feffer@wmich.edu.

Abbot in Georgetown Review
John Abbot’s story, ”Theft,” was recently accepted by the Georgetown Review.

Arizona State University to offer fellowships for WMU’s Prague Summer Program

The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University is collaborating with Western Michigan University’s Prague Summer Program to offer up to five full-tuition fellowships for students in ASU’s creative writing program to participate in the PSP in July 2009.

Nagle Essay on Cosmopolitan Pleasures
A new essay by Chris Nagle, “The Cosmopolitan Pleasures (and Perils) of Sensibility,” has been published in On Theorizing Romanticism (Edwin Mellen Press), a collection edited by Larry H. Peer, the Executive Director of the International Conference on Romanticism. The volume is dedicated to new, theoretically-engaged comparative work in European Romanticism, and opens with a foreword by Eugene Stelzig. Chris’s piece is a much-expanded version of an article on Sydney Owenson and Mme de Staël that appeared earlier this year in The Wordsworth Circle.

Nic Witschi’s essay "'With Powder Smoke and Profanity': Genre Conventions, Regional Identity, and the Palisade Gunfight Hoax" has been published by the University of Nebraska Press in a collection entitled Regionalism and the Humanities, edited by Timothy R. Mahoney and Wendy J. Katz. Originally part of an NEH-sponsored multidisciplinary conference on regionalist studies, this essay examines a small town in 1870s Nevada that, as the story goes, pranked westward-bound railway tourists by staging stereotypical and excessively bloody fake Indian attacks and gunfights. At issue is not only the question of what these events may have looked like historically, what conventions and assumptions they rely upon and
exploit, but also the prominent place that stories about this town have assumed in Nevadans' self-image—the story of the Palisade hoaxes is one that, true or not, people in the region have taken great pleasure in telling again and again.

Posted by Nicolas Witschi at 9:44 AM No comments: }

Rypma to talk on the marriage of poetry & science

“Rocks in Our Heads: The Marriage of Poetry & Science”
Poetry Reading and Presentation by Judith A. Rypma

2:15-3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, 2008, in Room 3030 Brown

The list of poets who have forged links with precious stones, metals, and ores begins with the Gilgamesh epic and Ovid, and runs in an endless strand of gems through Spenser, Donne, Poe, Yeats, Tennyson, and into the era of contemporary poetry. Poet and Children’s Literature Professor Judith Rypma will “mine” some of these metaphoric possibilities with a multi-visual presentation and reading focusing on the study of poetry that connects science to literature. In addition to sharing examples from poets as diverse as Spenser, Donne, Yeats, and Poe, Rypma will read her own work, including poems from two of her chapbooks—Mineral Treasures and Holy Rocks. Rypma will conclude by suggesting pedagogical approaches (for all grades) to enhance the study of poetry by engaging readers and writers with the earth sciences. Attendees are encouraged to bring some brief “research notes” on their favorite gem, mineral, or metal.

Posted by Becky Beech at 4:45 PM No comments: }

Nagle's (Local) Irish Adventures

Chris Nagle recently visited the Irish-American Club of Kalamazoo, where he was invited to give a talk on Irish literature. Chris spoke on the topic of “Neglected Women Writers in an Age of Revolution.”

The group is also planning to sponsor the local premiere of A Postcard from Ireland, a new travelogue by local filmmaker and WMU alum Chuck Bentley, which features both Chris and local vocalist Catherine Sugas performing traditional Irish ballads, and original music composed by Randon Myles Chisnell.
As we are inching our way towards the end of
the fall semester, a heartfelt Happy Thanksgiving to all Friends of the English
Department from our students, staff, and faculty!

Posted by Richard Utz at 9:51 AM No comments:

**Sweeney Receives Travel Grant**
Chad Sweeney is the recipient of a competitive Graduate College Travel Grant.
Congrats!

Posted by Richard Utz at 9:36 AM No comments:

**Memories are Made of This**
Re-membering: Framing - Embracing - Revising History
10th Annual Symposium on Democracy - Kent State University
May 4-5, 2009

Posted by Richard Utz at 5:00 PM No comments:

**Johnston & Percy Publish 'Duets'**

Arnie Johnston and Deborah Ann Percy's Duets: Love is Strange, a collection of six plays, is now available. "This duet that Arnold Johnston and Deborah Ann Percy sing is a song of love enduring life's perpetual tribulations of desperation, uncertainty, absurdity, contention, guilt, and grief. It is a song that dramatically explores aspects of the ultimate human bond, love between two people."
---*Charles (OyamO) Gordon*, Playwright in Residence, University of Michigan

Posted by Richard Utz at 4:23 PM No comments:

**Tuesday, November 18, 2008**
Upcoming Frostic Reading: Lisa Fishman & Daneen Wardrop

December 11, 8:00 PM, The Little Theater

Daneen Wardrop’s poetry has appeared in Seneca Review, TriQuarterly, Southern Review, and other magazines. She is the recipient of the Poetry Society of America Robert H. Winner Award and is the author of one poetry collection, The Odds of Being, and two books of literary criticism, including Emily Dickinson’s Gothic.

Lisa Fishman has published The Happiness Experiment, Dear, Read, and The Deep Heart’s Core is a Suitcase. She has also published a chapbook, KabbaLoom. She lives in Chicago, where she teaches in the MFA and undergraduate poetry program of Columbia College, and in Southern Wisconsin where she has an organic farm.

Third Coast Reading this Thurs. Nov. 20

There’s a Third Coast Reading this Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7:15 pm, at Dino’s Coffee Lounge, 773 W Michigan Ave (otherwise known as the corner of Stadium and Academy, parking on Academy). Poetry by Birkin Gimore, a play by Karen Wurl and
fiction by Michael Fischer. So come, drink some coffee, listen to some linguistical love... Invite your neighbors and students.

Thursday, November 13, 2008

**Hayden White Visit**

Hayden White, professor emeritus at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and professor of comparative literature at Stanford University, is currently visiting WMU and Kalamazoo. In addition to workshop classes with graduate students and meetings with faculty, he also spoke to a large audience on the topic of "The Practical Past" at the Fetzer Center. The visit was co-sponsored by the English Department. The picture shows Dr. White together with WMU’s Graduate Dean, Dr. Lewis Pyenson.

Wednesday, November 12, 2008

**Q and A Nov. 13@3:45 With Playwright Erik Ramsey**

November 13th at 3:45 PM in 3025 Brown, the Humanities Resource Center, there will be a Q and A with playwright Erik Ramsey prior to his reading at 8 PM in the Little Theatre as part of the Frostic Reading Series.

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

**CFP: The Laureate**

The Laureate is currently seeking submissions for the 2008-2009 edition. The Laureate is an undergraduate, student-run publication of literature produced by Lee Honors College students. The journal accepts any forms of literature, including poetry, short works of fiction (less than 15-20 pages), prose, drama, and non-fiction. The selected works are published in a 60-80 page journal which is to be distributed at a reading in March or April. The deadline for submissions is December 1, 2008, and anyone interested in this opportunity to publish should please contact: Elizabeth Scramlin (elizabeth.s.scramlin@wmich.edu) or Otto Shaffer (edward.o.shaffer@wmich.edu). You can also write to laureate.2008@gmail.com

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

**a poem by Janet Heller**
Janet Heller's poem "Nature's Olympics" has been accepted for publication in *Encore* and will appear in the December issue. She originally wrote the poem during the Atlanta Olympics.

**Nature's Olympics**

Swimmers churn Atlanta pools,
Runners streak down dusty tracks,
And gymnasts tumble and fly through the air.
While the Olympic torch burns overhead,
Thousands cheer their countrymen.

Here in Michigan, loons paddle near Isle Royale
And laugh like banshees
Before they dive and disappear
In the evening mist.
Chipmunks dash across our yard
To capture seeds, stuffing their cheeks,
Then scamper toward their burrows.
Goldfinches balance on sunflowers,
Chickadees dart from food to swaying trees,
And hummingbirds fly backwards,
Landing on titonia like acrobats.

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**Hayden White Lecture**

On Thursday, November 13, Dr. Hayden White of Stanford University will deliver a public lecture on "The Practical Past" at WMU's Fetzer Center, 6 p.m. Reception follows. The event is sponsored by the departments of History & English, the Medieval Institute, the Graduate College, and many more.

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**Update from Kristen Tracy**

Kristen Tracy's first teen novel, *Lost It*, was published last year by Simon & Schuster. It received a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*, was selected by the New York Public Library as one of their "Books for the Teen Age," and is already in its third printing. Her second teen novel, *Crimes of the Sarahs*, was also published by Simon & Schuster and came out this spring (It's set in Kalamazoo). Her first middle-grade novel, *Camille Mcphee Fell Under the Bus*, will be published next year by Random House with a second novel to follow in 2010. Her poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in *Threepenny Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *TriQuarterly*, *New York Quarterly*, *Puerto del Sol*, and *AGNI*. She recently found out that Ted Kooser has selected her poem "Rain at the Zoo" to be reprinted in *American Life in Poetry*. She lives and writes in San Francisco, where she is very very happy.
Social Justice Jobs
Direct Action & Research Training (DART) Center will be on the WMU campus on Monday, December 1 @ 7PM in the Wesley Foundation (near flagpole) to discuss careers in the field of community organizing, and to schedule interviews with students interested in empowering their communities and working for social change. To find out more about DART or to apply, we encourage you to send your resume to: Sunil Joy, DART Network, 820 New York Street Lawrence, KS 66044 or by email: sunil@thedartcenter.org. If you have any questions, please call: (785) 841-2680. Also, you can download applications or view profiles from previous OTs at the DART website: www.thedartcenter.org.

Posted by Richard Utz at 7:03 PM | No comments:
Friday, November 7, 2008

Vocke Featured by NWP
Karen Vocke’s successful work with migrant students and their families is currently featured in a full-length article published on the National Writing Project website.

Posted by Richard Utz at 4:21 PM | No comments:
Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Graduate Playwrights Present Public Readings
This semester the Graduate Playwrights Workshop is holding its readings and workshops every Tuesday night, at 6:30 p.m. at the Whole Art Studio Theatre at 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall, from now until the end of the semester.

The readings are script-in-hand sit-down or staged readings that feature new work-in-progress as read by actors from the Theatre Department. A brief discussion with the audience and playwright follows the reading.

The readings are free.

NOVEMBER 4
Cemetery Row, Act One
by Karen Wurl
A very free adaptation of the classic ballet Giselle, set in a college neighborhood in Milwaukee. Singing barista Lauren meets Josh, a cute guy from out of town who isn’t quite what he appears to be; meanwhile, random guys keep washing up dead on the shore, Lauren’s friend Drew can be annoying, and Lauren is haunted by a dead girl. Can she find love? (To be continued.)

NOVEMBER 11
Justice for All
by Kevin Dodd
An exploration of the morality and practicality of Capital Punishment in the United States. This docu-drama traces the journey of a boy who brutally murdered two young girls and how the repercussions of the act and his trial rocked the community and nation.

NOVEMBER 18
The Manumission Manifesto  
by Jason Lenz  
A pet funeral home curator is forced to struggle with an absurd series of circumstances as he seeks to answer the seemingly simple question: why are there suddenly so many dead cats coming into the funeral home? As he delves deeper into his investigation, he discovers a trail of breadcrumbs that exposes the truth behind the surreal and oppressive nature of the world around him.

NOVEMBER 25  
Bearing Daughters  
by Mikala Hansen  
In an effort to "save" the family, Joan reveals to her daughters, Elizabeth and Diana, that they must produce a son to preserve themselves as well as the family's line. Joan explains how the possible breach of a contract their ancestors made with the Devil threatens the family's survival, which forces Joan's daughters to question her sanity as well as her story's truth. After Mary, Joan's thirteen year old daughter, becomes pregnant in her own attempt to "save" the family, they continue to quarrel over who's to blame for this, what actually happened, and what should be done.

DECEMBER 2  
In the Window  
by Robert Kirkbride  
A man becomes obsessed with the idea of voyeurism after receiving a telescope.

DECEMBER 9  
Half Empty  
by Joe Sanders  
Concerning our hero, Charles, the woman who loves him, the friend at his side, the country indebted to him, a witch's curse, a deal with the devil, and a list of priorities...

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Janet Heller to give readings from her book  
The English Department's Janet Heller reads her award-winning book for kids about bullying, *How the Moon Regained Her Shape*, for Western Michigan University's Student Education Association's Read-a-Thon; she will also conduct creative writing workshops for the children. The first reading is Thursday, November 13, from 6 to 8 at the Dual Language School, 604 West Vine St., and the second is Wednesday, November 19, from 7 to 8 at Washington Writer's Academy, 1919 Portage Road. For more information, please contact Jamie Green at jamie.e.green@wmich.edu.

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Slawinski Delivers Paper on Vickery's Admirers
On a wonderfully warm Halloween, Scott Slavinski presented "Of Public Epistles and Personas: Sukey Vickery and her Della Cruscan Admirers" at the annual conference of the Northeastern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. The conference was held in Finger Lakes town of Geneva, NY, with the hotel situated right on the shore of beautiful Seneca Lake.

Third Coast Reading Thurs. Nov. 6
There's a Third Coast Reading this Thursday, Nov. 6 at 7:15 pm, at Dino’s Coffee Lounge(we’ll be in the back room with the stage) 773 W Michigan Ave (otherwise known as the corner of Stadium and Academy, parking on Academy). James Miranda will be reading fiction, Andrea England will be reading poetry and Kris Peterson will be reading from a play. So come, drink some coffee, listen to some linguistic love...Invite your neighbors and students. :) The other Third Coast Reading dates for Fall are Nov. 20, and Dec. 4 (all Thurs, same time, same place).

The Boy Whose Hands were Birds
Main Street Rag Publishing Company to release Roy Seeger’s The Boy Whose Hands were Birds, the winner of the 2008 Main Street Rag Poetry Book Contest. The book will be available through Main Street Rag’s online bookstore and through select bookstores nationwide with a suggested price of $14.00.

Roy Seeger is a Full English Instructor at the University of South Carolina Aiken and the winner of the 2007 Gribble Press Chapbook Contest for The Garden of Improbable Birds. He received his Master of Fine Arts in Poetry from Western Michigan University in 2005 and his Master of Arts in Poetry from Ohio University. He was also co-winner of the 2008 Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature’s Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize, a finalista for the 2007 Chicago Poetry Center Juried Reading, and his work has been featured on Verse Daily as well as in numerous poetry journals such as Gulf Coast, The Laurel Review, and the Mississippi Review.

You may contact Roy Seeger for autographed copies, readings, book signings, and workshops at 803-226-0245 or by email at roydseeger@hotmail.com

Upcoming Frostic Reading: Erik Ramsey
Erik Ramsey’s plays have been produced around the country, and several of his short works have been published by Samuel French and Dramatic Publishing. His recent play, Lions Lost (In Translation), has been developed, read and work-shopped at numerous regional theaters including Cleveland Public Theatre, American Stage, the Tony-award winning Victory Gardens, and Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre. His two textbooks, The Art of Theatre: Then and Now, and Experiencing the Art of Theatre were published by Thomson/Wadsworth (2006).

Sigma Tau Delta Induction
The Fall 2008 Sigma Tau Delta induction ceremony and reception on Sunday, November 2, at 2 p.m. The induction will take place on the 10th floor of Sprau. We have 18 excellent students to induct and to celebrate their accomplishments as well as the third anniversary of our chapter's charter.

The inductees are

Meghan Dykema
Rodger Swan
Sasha Boersma
Crystal Kelly
Kalyn Golland
Madeline Baker
Tyler Evans
Kimberly Knopf
Andrew Weissenborn
Scott Benzenberg
Sarah Ashley McFee
Julia Valentine
Randi Easley
Megan Runyan
Courtney De Smit
Josephine Tucker
Caitlin Popa
Eric Szubinski
Grand Junction a play by Dr. Kevin Drzakowski

Play n Well Players
preseent a mysterious comedy
written by Kevin Drzakowski

GRAND JUNCTION
Plainwell Community Center, 2nd Level
798 East Bridge St. (M-89)
Plainwell, MI 49080
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
November 6, 7, & 8, 2008 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 9, 2008 2:00 p.m.
Advance ticket price $6.00
At the door: $6.00
For more information phone 269-271-7526

Slam Poetry on November 5

On Wednesday November 5th, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) is bringing slam poet group Death From Below to WMU. The event will take place at 9pm in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. It is $1 with your Bronco ID and $2 without it. Death From Below have been featured on HBO's Def Poetry.

New Poetry from New Issues

New Issues announces the publication of two new poetry books: Please, a debut collection by Jericho Brown, and Tall If by Mark Irwin.

Claudia Rankine says this about Please: "To read these poems is to encounter the devastating genius of Jericho Brown." Read more on the New Issues website.
Read "Beneath Me" and "Your Body Made Heavy with Gin" from Please.

The American Book Review has called Mark Irwin's poetry “. . . vibrant and alert, a poetry to contend with . . .” and Publisher’s Weekly had this to say about Irwin’s earlier work: "Brilliant, Irwin’s intellect and the urgency of his words remain traditionally steadfast." Read "Doors" and "Theory" from Tall If.

Both books are available online from Amazon.com and Spdbooks.org.

Vocke to address State Migrant Directors
Our own Karen Vocke and Dr. Susan Piazza (Literacy Studies, COE) will discuss their research on migrant education at the State Migrant Directors’ meeting on Tuesday, November 11. Their research focuses on the issues, opportunities, and concerns related to migrant education in the state of Michigan and beyond.

Mortimore Receives Grant
Graduate Student Shannon Mortimore recently received a competitive Graduate Student Research & Travel Grant from the Graduate College.

Croque Mort or Bite the Dead
Mark your calendars! Christine Iaderosa’s new play, Croque Mort or Bite the Dead will open in the late night series at the Whole Art Theatre Studio on November 14th at 11:00pm. It will run the 14th, 15, 21 and 22. The Studio is located at 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall near the Radisson and the museum. Tickets are $5.00 plus free coffee and donuts. The show is very funny, come support our grad students.

Upcoming Frostic Reading: Arnost Lustig!
October 28, 8:00 PM, The Little Theater
Arnost Lustig was born in Prague in 1926. In 1942 he was sent by the Nazis to Theresienstadt and later to Auschwitz, where his father died in the gas chambers, and finally to Buchenwald. He left Czechoslovakia after the Soviet occupation in 1968. He settled in 1970 in Washington D. C., where he is Professor of Literature at the American University. He is the author of The Unloved, Diamonds of the Night, A Prayer for Katerina Horovitzova, The Bitter Smell of Almonds, Children of the Holocaust, Darkness Casts no Shadows, Dita Saxova, Fire on Water: Porgess and the Abyss, The House of Returned Echoes, Indecent Dreams, Lovely Green Eyes: A Novel, The Unloved: (From the Diary of Perla S.), and Night and Hope. He is a two-time winner of the Jewish National Book Award.

Posted by Michael Davis at 7:11 PM No comments:

Monday, October 20, 2008

Nagle visits with Polyamorous Romantics
Chris Nagle recently attended the International Conference on Romanticism (hosted this year by Oakland University in Rochester, MI), and presided over a Special Session—“Love’s Labors: Romantic Polyamorousness”—with his co-organizer, Courtney Wennerstrom of Indiana University. In addition to organizing and co-chairing the panel, Chris and Courtney collaborated on an introductory talk, “Theorizing Polyamorousness: A (Multi-)User-Friendly Introduction,” which framed the panel’s exploration of this new area of critical inquiry. A follow-up roundtable session with six new projects will be featured at the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies next Spring.
Sarah Shun-lien Bynum and Salvatore Scibona

October 21, 8:00 PM, The Little Theater

Sarah Shun-lien Bynum’s first novel, Madeleine is Sleeping, was published by Harcourt in 2004, and was a finalist for the National Book Award. Her short stories have appeared in Triquarterly, The Georgia Review, Alaska Quarterly Review, and in Best American Short Stories. She lives in Los Angeles and teaches at UC San Diego.
After Walking the Whitman Walk, Listen to the Killingsworth Talk (10/30)

Next Thursday (10/30) we are thrilled to welcome Walt Whitman scholar M. Jimmie Killingsworth of Texas A & M to campus as this semester’s final English Department Scholarly Speaker. It is sure to be an exciting week in the department, with Frostic speaker Arnost Lustig here starting on Tuesday, and then Jimmie later in the week. We on the Speakers Committee hope as many of you can make it to these events as possible.

Here are the specifics for Jimmie’s visit:
Lecture topic: “Whitman and the Nature Writers: Looking for the Soul in a Disenchanted Land”
Thursday, October 30, 7 PM, Brown 3025

Among Jimmie’s many and varied publications, his latest are _Walt Whitman and the Earth: A Study in Ecopoetics_ (University of Iowa Press, 2004), _Appeals in Modern Rhetoric: An Ordinary-Language Approach_ (Southern Illinois University Press, 2005), and _The Cambridge Introduction to Walt Whitman_ (Cambridge University Press, 2007). His visit to campus is co-sponsored by the WMU Environmental Studies Program and the Kalamazoo Nature Center.

Here’s the abstract of Jimmie’s talk:

As the self-proclaimed poet of the body and poet of the soul, and as the enchanted lover of the earth, Walt Whitman took the measure of a world transformed by urbanization and industrialization. While always open to the idea of human progress and the technological sublime, Whitman’s vision took on a dark and elegiac tone in the years following the Civil War as he surveyed a disenchanted, and increasingly disenchanting, land. In bearing witness to the obstructions he found on the path to a soulful life, Whitman not only shared a vision with the great nature writers of his time, such as his New England counterpart Henry David Thoreau and his friend John Burroughs, but also anticipated the nature writing that flourished in the wake of post-World War II environmental politics, when the fate of the entire natural world seemed to fall into human hands for the first time in history. With writers like Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, Edward Abbey, Doug Peacock, Peter Matthiessen, Leslie Marmon Silko, Bill McKibbens, and Janisse Ray, Whitman helped to found a literature devoted to recovering the sense of wonder, looking for the lost soul in an endangered land (one’s own soul as rediscovered in natural settings as well as the soul of the land itself, its special character, beauty, and meaningfulness for human culture). Like Whitman’s poetry, nature writing is an outdoor literature that aims to take readers beyond the confines of modern inwardness and human exclusivity and to introduce them to the wider (and wilder) world. In this work, the soul becomes not so much the exclusive property of the individual, held tightly like a title on private...
land, but rather an ecological phenomenon of circulation and reflection, that opens the person to the influx of natural and interpersonal powers.

Posted by Anthony Ellis at 10:09 AM No comments:

Friday, October 17, 2008

Walk with Whitman
Kalamazoo Nature Center, Sunday, October 26, 2 PM

Join Nature Center Naturalists and WMU Faculty for a Nature Walk with readings of Walt Whitman’s poetry and prose.

Sponsored by Kalamazoo Nature Center, WMU English Department, WMU Environmental Studies Program

Posted by Richard Utz at 3:22 PM No comments:

Brinkley Appointed to National Commission
Ellen Brinkley was recently appointed to the College Board's Advanced Placement English Course and Examination Review Commission. This means that she is among a dozen members nationwide who will review current College Board documents related to high school courses and realign them according to current and emerging best practices.

Posted by Richard Utz at 10:19 AM No comments:

Thursday, October 16, 2008

Abbott Goes Upstreet

MFA student John Abbott has published a story in the current issue of Upstreet. The issue and John's story were reviewed on Newpages.com:
Upstreet: http://www.upstreet-mag.org/
Newpages.com: http://www.newpages.com/magazinestand/litmags/default.htm#upstreet

Posted by Richard Utz at 8:47 AM No comments:

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Salisbury Speaks on Rebellion and Rising
On October 13, Eve Salisbury spoke on "Representing Rebellion: Poets, Chroniclers and the Rising of 1381," at the Medieval Studies Center, Loyola University Chicago.

Posted by Richard Utz at 2:44 PM No comments:

Monday, October 13, 2008

Elizabeth Kerlikowske

Elizabeth Kerlikowske, who taught children's literature for us for many years and completed her PhD here in lit/Creative Writing a year or two back, has had her dissertation *The Laying on of Maples* (a collection of poetry) accepted for publication by Wayne State University for its Made in Michigan Series. She's now full-time at Kellogg Community College.

Posted by Becky Beech at 3:46 PM No comments:

Loew Lecture

On Friday, October 24, Dr. Marcia Colish (Yale) will present the Medieval Institute's Loew Lecture on “The Pseudo-Peter of Poitiers Gloss and Early Scholastic Theology” in Walwood Commons (East Campus).

The Cornelius Loew Lectures in Medieval Studies were started in 1986 by The Medieval Institute to honor the late Dr. Cornelius Loew, Professor Emeritus of Religion, former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and former Vice-President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Loew's vision and support for scholarship were instrumental in the development and growth of The Medieval Institute and Medieval Institute Publications. The lecture series is seen as a way of honoring and recognizing a man whose consistent support of and contributions to Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University have been invaluable.

Posted by Richard Utz at 1:46 PM No comments:

Third Coast Reading this Thurs. Oct 16

There's a Third Coast Reading Series this Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7:15 pm, at Dino's Coffee Lounge 773 W Michigan Ave (otherwise known as the corner of Stadium and Academy, parking on academy). Marin Heinritz will be reading non-fiction, Laura Donnelly will be reading poetry and Noah Hilgert will be reading fiction. So come, drink some coffee, hear some wondrous words... The other Third Coast Reading dates for Fall are Nov. 6, Nov. 20, and Dec. 4 (all Thurs, same time, same place)

Posted by Melinda at 12:11 PM No comments:
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