Welcome to another academic year. The English Department is off to a busy start with three important events in September alone. We had our ten year program review in the second week of classes. Donald Hall, from West Virginia University, spent two days meeting with faculty, students, and administrators, preparing his assessment of our programs’ strengths and weaknesses. (We eagerly await his report.) This week brings homecoming and along with it, the honoring of alumni who have been recognized as “distinguished.” This year, thanks to the efforts of Casey Charles, English will get its second distinguished alum: Patrick Cheney. (You can read more about Professor Cheney and his visit to campus on p. 2.) Next week, the English Department will co-sponsor one of the President’s Lecture Series speakers, D.E. Axinn Professor of English and Creative Writing at Middlebury College, Jay Parini. (You’ll find details for this and other events on the newsletter’s back page.)

And that’s just September!

Yes, it promises to be an exciting and full year, especially if last year’s faculty, students and alumni accomplishments are any indication. Enjoy reading about these, and be sure to take a look at the back page so you can mark your calendars for upcoming events.

~ Jill Bergman, Department Chair

Who’s Here
David Gates

Who’s Away
We had resounding success with sabbatical applications last spring. As a result, four of our faculty are away this year: Beverly Chin from English Teaching and John Glendening, John Hunt, and Brady Harrison, all from Literature are off working on various research projects. (We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labors in future issues of the English News.) Joanna Klink and Lynn Itagaki continue their leave, while Bob Baker and Casey Charles have taken a research leave for the Fall.

Who’s Here
We are delighted to have Karen Volkman and Ashby Kinch back with us after a year away. This year, David Gates, author of the novels Jernigan and Preston Falls and a collection of stories, The Wonders of the Invisible World, joins us for the Fall semester as the visiting Kittredge Writer. Brian Blanchfield graciously continues as Joanna Klink’s replacement. Donna Miller, PhD candidate at Arizona State University, has stepped in to replace Professor Beverly Chin during her sabbatical. Thank you!

Introducing Maria!

Maria Mangold joined the English Department Staff this fall as our new Academic Advisor. She moved here from Chicago with her family (husband and adorable one-year-old daughter, Elena.) She brings plenty of experience to the job, having worked at Roosevelt University as the International Student Advisor. She earned a B.A. in Anthropology from Illinois Wesleyan University and a M.Ed. in Higher Education, Student Affairs Administration from Loyola. We’re lucky to have her. Welcome, Maria!

“Literature adds to reality, it does not simply describe it. It enriches the necessary competencies that daily life requires and provides; and in this respect, it irrigates the deserts that our lives have already become.”

C.S. Lewis
Distinction in the English Department

In 1961, author Dorothy Johnson (BA 1928) was recognized as one of UM’s distinguished alumni. This year, thanks to the efforts of Casey Charles, Patrick Cheney, Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Penn State, will be the second English grad to receive the UM Distinguished Alumni Award. Professor Cheney attended UM from 1967 to 1972. As one the preeminent scholars in Renaissance Studies, he has published six books (including Shakespeare’s Literary Authorship [Cambridge 2008]), three editions, and a dozen edited collections on Spenser, Marlowe, Shakespeare, and the Renaissance lyric. He will be recognized as part of the UM Homecoming events, September 23-24. On Thursday, Sept. 23, at 4 pm in FA 302, Professor Cheney will give a lecture. The title of his talk: “The forms of things unknown: English Authorship and the Early Modern Sublime.” Friday, the 24th, at 4 pm, the College of Arts and Sciences will host a reception in honor of Professor Cheney and fellow awardee, John Badgley.

Professor Patrick Cheney

Literature-based radio program launched in September on KUFM

By Lisa Simon, Adjunct Assistant Professor

In September Montana Public Radio launched a weekly radio show called Reflections West that is created and produced by Lisa Simon and co-hosted by David Moore. Reflections West presents short meditations written by thinkers and scholars on an array of topics about the American West and then pairs each reflection with a passage or poem. The result is a petite 5-minute sonic jewel nestled within the other literary programs of KUFM, 9:30 on Tuesday nights. The first seven weeks feature the following writers:

Sep 14: Greg Pape reflects on poetry and the changing of seasons, pairing his thoughts with a poem by Chris Dombrowski

Sep 21: Kim Anderson reflects on her romance with the East, pairing it with a passage from James Welch’s Heart Song of Charging Elk

Sep 28: Robert Stubblefield reflects on his upbringing in the West, pairing it with a poem by Paul Zarzyski

Oct 5: Lisa Teberg reflects on the cause and effect of humans in the West, pairing it with a poem by Melissa Kwasny

Oct 12: David Moore reflects on the feeling of “belonging” to the land, pairing it with a poem by Simon Ortiz

Oct 19: Tami Haaland reflects on women in the West, pairing it with a poem by Grace Stone Coates

Oct 26: Mark Gibbons reflects on Western small towns, pairing it with a poem by Richard Hugo

Other UM faculty reflections to be broadcast in the near future include those of Judy Blunt, Casey Charles, Nancy Cook, Brian Blanchfield, and Brady Harrison. Student contributions include Lena Viall, Lisa Teberg, and Jenna Williams. A new reflection rolls out every Tuesday. After the broadcast date, you can hear the episodes 24/7 on the show’s website, below, under “episodes.” If you’re interested in submitting a reflection of your own, see the website for guidelines.

Reflections WEST

A radio program on literature, culture, and history of the American West. www.reflectionswest.org
Faculty Activity: Presentations and Publications

**Heather Bruce** has been invited to write the lead article for an upcoming issue of *English Journal*, an issue in which two of her former students, Elliot Jacobs (MAT 09) and Merrilyne Lundahl (M.S. EVST 09), will also, serendipitously, be published.

**Bernadette Sweeney**, who has taught for us and who is currently at work on the research project, *The Gathering*, has co-edited an anthology on Irish playwright Tom MacIntyre. *Strays from the Ether: the Theatre of Tom MacIntyre* is due out from Carysfort press later this month.

**Brady Harrison** was invited to write the introduction for a new poetry anthology: *New Poets of the American West*, published this year by Many Voices Press. He also has two new essays forthcoming. "man’s meat ain’t proper meat: The Big Sky, Cannibalism, and the Clap" will appear in *Arizona Quarterly*; "For a while they felt better": *Negation in A Flag for Sunrise* has been accepted by *The European Journal of American Studies*.


Louisiana State University Press has accepted **Jill Bergman**’s manuscript for publication. “Motherless Child: the Novels of Pauline Hopkins” is slated for LSU’s spring 2012 list.

*Black Warrior Review* will publish **Katie Kane**’s short story "Payday Loan" in its 2010 Fall/Winter issue. As a follow up to her experience in Haiti, reported in the last newsletter, Katie published "Haiti: A Country Forgotten" in the *Missoulian*. The story was reprinted in the *Tehran Times*. http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_view.asp?code=221146

Faculty Activity: How We Spent our Summer “Vacation”


**Katie Kane** attended the Sixth Annual Galway Colonialism Conference, where she presented “From Boarding Schools to Community Colleges: Colonialism, Culture, and Indian Education in Montana.”

**Ashby Kinch** presented his work on the topic of “Cognitive Alterities” at the Chaucer Society Conference in Sienna, Italy.

Conferences weren’t the only activities. **Sean O’Brien**’s documentary, “Be Thou Always as a Guest,” appeared at the Philipsburg Opera House Theater in June. The film celebrates the life and work of Bill Ohrmann, 91 year old artist, rancher, and environmentalist.

**Eric Reimer** spent much of his summer completing work (along with UM’s Spectral Fusion) on the English Department Web Site. Check it out at: http://www.cas.umt.edu/english/ Many thanks to Eric!
Folk Musician Teams Up with *The Oval* by Peter Horton, UM Student, and Robert Stubblefield, Oval Advisor

*The Oval*, U of M’s Undergraduate Literary Magazine, is a proud partner in sponsoring an upcoming concert by Montana folk musician David Boone. Starting Monday, Sept. 27th, look for Oval staffers at their University Center booth selling tickets to this event and copies of the recent *Oval*. David Boone will be headlining at the University Theatre on Saturday, October 23rd, starting at 7 PM. Openers for the event include Nate Hegyi (of Wartime Blues) and Darah Fogarty, an up-and-coming musician and student here at the University. Award-winning documentary team Tree and Sky Media Arts are filming the event live, with the material to be featured in their upcoming documentary *History: The Making of a Folk Album*, based on David and his music. Tickets on sale for $10 in advance/$12 at the door.

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Our Impressive Students

Jeff Bartelli’s essay, "Literary Memetics: Hyper Canon Formation and the Literary Genome Project," has been selected as one of the two runners-up in this year’s Norton Writer’s Prize competition. Nominated by Katie Kane, Jeff’s essay was chosen from a pool of almost 100 essays. Judges praised Jeff’s “technologically savvy response to issues of literary canon formation” as “well-researched and effectively articulated.”

Nathaniel Miller’s essay "The Pit" (about the Berkeley Pit) is forthcoming in the *Virginia Quarterly Review’s* fall issue.

Molly Laich’s story “Stillwater” was published in the September issue of *Burnt Bridge Press*. See the story at: [http://burntbridge.net/magazine/online-edition/september-2010/fiction/molly-laich/](http://burntbridge.net/magazine/online-edition/september-2010/fiction/molly-laich/)

Kirsi Marcus has a story published in *DIAGRAM*’s summer fiction issue. See it at: [http://thediagram.com/10_3/marcus.html](http://thediagram.com/10_3/marcus.html)

Jonathon Volk’s short story, “The Frank Lloyd Wright Project,” was also published in *DIAGRAM*: [http://thediagram.com/10_4/volk.html](http://thediagram.com/10_4/volk.html)

Jayme Feary tied for first place in a *Powder Mountain Press Magazine* writing contest. His article "The High Note," which *Teton Valley Magazine* will publish, takes readers on an acrobatic glider flight with pilot and renowned opera singer Kristine Ciesinski.
Accolades

**Kevin Canty’s** latest book, *Everything*, is drawing rave reviews. A highly complementary piece from the August 15 *New Yorker* praises Canty’s style, which “casts a hypnotic spell,” soaring with “confidence and lyricism.” (But be warned. This review provides a good deal of detail from the novel, so read the book yourself first.) *Everything* is also available now in French!

The Provost has recognized **Greg Pape** for his impressive career as a poet, including his service as the Montana Poet Laureate. Greg will be one of four faculty selected for the Provost’s Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series. He will present “Journey-Work: A reading of new and selected poems by Greg Pape” on Tuesday, November 30, at 6 pm in the University Center Theater, followed by a reception.

**Heather Bruce’s** work with Montana Writing Project (MWP) drew the attention of the National Writing Project recently. The national organization described in glowing terms the MWP’s work on the state mandate, Indian Ed for All. Read the article at <http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/3147>.

**Debra Earling** has been invited by the State Department to serve as a speaker for the Conference of America Studies Association of Turkey. The purpose of the conference is to promote American Studies in Turkey. Academics and scholars come together and exchange ideas and experiences in their fields. Debra’s work at the conference will include a plenary address, guest lectures in departments of American Studies or English, and a presentation at the Turkish-American Association in Izmir.

Our Amazing Alumni

In addition to Patrick Cheney (see story, p. 2) we have a number of (more recent) grads who have accomplishments of note. **Jeremy Smith** (MFA ’05) has a new book: *Growing A Garden City* (http://growingagardencity.com) about local food and community farms and gardens. It comes out October 6 from Skyhorse Publishing, distributed by W.W. Norton. **Randi Tanglen** (MA ’02) published a review essay of two recent books about captivity narratives published in the summer 2010 edition of *Western American Literature*. Last year, she presented papers at the Western Literature Association conference, the Society for the Study of American Women Writers conference, the C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists conference, and the American Literature Association conference. And in 2009 she was awarded the Austin College Humanities Division teaching award. **Laura Gronewold** (MA ’05) presented her work at several conferences: “Sweetening ‘The Devil’: Silencing Female Aggressiveness in the Film *The Devil Wears Prada*.” National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, October 2009; “‘I scarcely dared to look to see what it was I was’: Subject Formation in Elizabeth Bishop’s ‘In the Waiting Room’.” Rocky Mountain MLA, Reno, NV, October 2008; “Beyond the Kitsch Mirror: Chick Lit and the Culture Industry.” Popular Culture/American Culture Association, San Francisco, CA, March 2008.

Your Contributions at Work

Contributions from English alumni and friends fund a variety of department initiatives, programs and student scholarships. If you would like to support the English Department, please send check or money order to The University of Montana Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807-7159, with a note in the memo line designating it for the English Department. Contributions are also accepted online at: http://www.umt.edu/UMF/. For more information about making a gift (with no obligation to do so), please contact Kelley Willett of the UM Foundation at Kelye.Willett@mso.umt.edu or (800) 443.2593, (406) 243.2646.
Upcoming Events

**September 23** 4-5 pm, FA 302: Patrick Cheney, Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Penn State University and UM Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient, presents "'The forms of things unknown': English Authorship and the Early Modern Sublime."

**September 24** CAS reception for Patrick Cheney, 4 pm, Payne Family Native American Center.

**September 27** President’s Lecture Series features Jay Parini, 8 pm in University Theatre. Sponsored in part by the Department of English and the Creative Writing Program.

**October 8** 6 pm "The Writers Fall Opus,” a fundraiser for The University of Montana undergraduate creative writing program, “The Oval,” and “Cut Bank,” will be held in The Governor’s Room of the Florence Building, downtown Missoula, 111 N. Higgins. $35 single/$60 couples. There will be fun and fine beverages, food and treats, as well as the company of friends. This event is graciously hosted by Kevin Head and Charlie Brown. Must be 21 or older to attend. For more information and to RSVP, contact Karin Schalm at 243-5267. Tickets will also be available at the door.

**October 22** 4-5 pm, FA 302, Literature and Research Colloquium (LARC): John Glendening, Professor of English, presents “Science, Religion, and Ichthyosaurs in the Victorian Postmodern Past.” Reception to follow.

**October 28** Fundraiser for CutBank Literary Magazine (See p. 4 of this newsletter.)

**November 12** 4-5 p.m., FA 302, LARC: Benjamin Adams, M.A. candidate in English, presents "'Yet another artifact leached out of the earth': Style, Character and the Texture of Death in Cormac McCarthy's Suttree.” Reception to follow.

**November 19** Reading by poet Dara Wier.

**November 30** Greg Pape, Professor of Creative Writing, will speak as part of the Provost’s Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series. Pape will present “Journey-Work: A reading of new and selected poems by Greg Pape” on Tuesday, November 30, at 6 pm in the University Center Theater, followed by a reception.

**December 3** 4-5 pm, FA 302, LARC: Nat Levbow, Assistant Professor of Liberal Studies (Ancient Religion), presents "'You Have Burned this Scroll': The Production and Destruction of Texts in the Bible and the Ancient World.” Reception to follow.

**December 10** Reading by David Gates, Kittredge Visiting Writer.

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