Greetings from a new Department Chair! Jill Bergman left the position this summer, after four productive years, and is now enjoying a well-earned sabbatical leave. Her replacement by John Hunt, the former Associate Chair, has been accompanied by several other changes in the administrative structure of the Department. Ashby Kinch is the new Associate Chair and Director of Graduate Studies. Louise Economides has taken over from Casey Charles as the Director of Literature, and in January Kevin Canty will replace Judy Blunt as Director of Creative Writing. We have a new Administrative Assistant replacing Janis Schmier: the personable and efficient Leisa Greene Nelson. With the departure this summer of Kate Ryan, Amy Ratto-Parks has taken on the big task of managing the Composition program as interim Director, and Jimmy Kendall has replaced her as the interim Composition Coordinator. Liz Boeheim is the new Assistant to the Montana Writing Project. Fresh blood, new ideas, good vibes: life goes on in the Department of English.

— John Hunt

For poetry makes nothing happen: it survives in the valley of its making where executives would never want to tamper, flows on south from ranches of isolation and the busy griefs, raw towns that we believe and die in; it survives, a way of happening, a mouth.

— W. H. Auden

Manuscripts don’t burn.

— Mikhail Bulgakov
Who’s here this year. In addition to our valued Lecturers—Robert Stubblefield (CRWR and WRIT), Sean O’Brien (FILM), Erin Saldin (CRWR), and David Gilcrest (LIT)—other accomplished scholars and artists are teaching classes for us this year in an adjunct capacity. Walter Kirn is the 2013 Kittredge Writer. In the spring, Sherwin Bitsui will join us as this year’s Hugo Fellow. Welcome and thanks to the many others who are making vibrant contributions to our curriculum: Lisa Simon (LIT), Cristelle Maury (FILM), Phil Fandozzi (FILM), Anna Baldwin (ENT), Tom Berninghausen (ENT), Carolyn Patterson (CRWR), Fred Haefle (CRWR), Brian Buckbee (LIT), Joe Campana and Henrietta Goodman (LIT and WRIT).

Who’s away. Joanna Klink and Dee McNamer are in the second halves of sabbatical leaves, and will return in the spring. Bob Baker and Jill Bergman started sabbaticals this fall, and will be gone for the year. We wish all of them peace and productivity.

Who’s teaching from Starbucks. Natalie Petersee (WRIT), Lise Lalonde and Joe Campana (LIT), and Naomi Kimbell, Brian Buckbee, and Ken White (CRWR) are teaching online classes for us this year. Thank you for taking on this pedagogical challenge!

“A shift happens, and it’s not a shift out and away from Navajo language. It’s actually pulling the colonizer’s language into our own ways of knowing. So there’s a way of transforming English also, and that ability is empowering us to bring it into our field of understanding and expression.”

~Sherwin Bitsui

Quote from an interview with Indian Country Today Media Network.com, June 2013.
We welcome Walter Kirn as this fall’s Kittredge Visiting Writer. He is the author of seven books, including the memoir *Lost in the Meritocracy: The Undereducation of an Overachiever* and the novels *Up in the Air* and *Thumbsucker*, which were both made into films. Kirn has reviewed books for *New York Magazine*, *The New York Times Book Review* and *New York Times Sunday Magazine*. He is a national correspondent for the BBC. Kirn lives in Livingston, Montana.

Plagued by travel snafus with his flights, Major Jackson finally made it to Missoula with road tripping help from faculty. His poetry craft lecture and poetry reading on Friday, October 18th, made the extra effort to get him here well worth it.

Major Jackson is an American poet, professor and the author of three collections of poetry: *Holding Company* (W.W. Norton, 2010) and *Hoops* (W.W. Norton, 2006), both finalists for an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literature-Poetry and *Leaving Saturn* (University of Georgia, 2002), winner of the 2001 Cave Canem Poetry Prize and finalist for a National Book Critics Award Circle. He is also a recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship, and he has been honored by the Pew Fellowship in the Arts and the Witter Bynner Foundation in conjunction with the Library of Congress.

Jackson is the Richard Dennis Green and Gold Professor at University of Vermont and a core faculty member of the Bennington Writing Seminars. He served as a creative arts fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, as well as the Jack Kerouac Writer-in-Residence at University of Massachusetts-Lowell, and he currently serves as the Poetry Editor of the Harvard Review.
Anna Baldwin is the 2014 Montana Teacher of the Year, the highest honor a Montana teacher can achieve. Baldwin will represent Montana in the National Teacher of the Year program, serve as an ambassador for public education, and attend numerous national and state events. She received this honor at the MEA/MFT Conference in Belgrade on October 17.

Teaching English and history at Arlee High School, Anna brings together multiple perspectives during discussions of Indian authors and topics that influence students’ lives. She helps students find a personal connection in every lesson.

Students in her Multicultural Literature class read our own Debra Magpie Earling’s novel *Perma Red*, set on the Flathead Reservation.

A news release by MEA-MFT observes that “Baldwin wanted them to appreciate the novel’s beautiful imagery, so we spent time locating richly descriptive passages about landscape.” Students then went “into the field with digital cameras to photograph the landscapes Earling describes.”*

Baldwin received a bachelor’s degree in Literature at Georgetown University, a Master’s in English Teaching at the University of Montana, and a Doctorate of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Montana. Anna also teaches courses for the U of M English Teaching Program.


Faculty Accomplishments

Last year, the indefatigable Quan Ha had nine publications. In addition to two peer-reviewed articles on Vietnamese-American literature, four reference essays, and two book reviews, his English translation of Nam Cao’s short story “Bright Moon” was accepted for publication. Quan also presented at the 23rd Annual Conference on the Image of the Outsider in Literature, Media, and Society (Colorado Springs, CO), and the 25th Annual Meeting of the Far West Popular Culture and American Culture Associations (Las Vegas).

Montana Writing Project and spectrUM Discovery Center have received an Intersections grant from the National Science Foundation to promote collaborations between working scientists and literacy teachers. The project will explore science, literacy, and indigenous ways of knowing in conjunction with the large river ecosystem exhibit currently on display at the science museum on Front Street. MWP and spectrUM Discovery are one of 5 grantees nationwide.


During the past six months, Beverly Ann Chin was the keynote speaker at the Ohio Council of Teachers of English, Arizona English Teachers Association, New York State English Council, and Florida Council of Teachers of English. She also presented conference sessions at the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, National Catholic Education Association, and International Reading Association. In April, she organized and led the ASCRC Writing Retreat. This summer, she joined the Expert Panel for the Parents Tool Kit, a web-based resource sponsored by NBC Education.

Deirdre McNamer has been chosen as one of three judges for one of the top fiction prizes in the country, the PEN\Faulkner Award for 2014. In 2011, McNamer chaired the five-judge fiction panel for the National Book Awards.
Faculty Publications


Erin Saldin’s novel for young adults, *The Girls Of No Return*, was selected as an Honor Book for the Montana Book Award in April. Erin was also a keynote speaker at the Pacific Northwest Librarians’ Association annual conference in August. In between, she had a baby. In regards to having a baby Erin says, “Oh my, it felt like a feat.”

Amy Ratto-Parks had two poems published late spring/summer: “Song for the Persistence of Light” in *About Place Journal*; “For Dai, My Late Apology” in *Magnolia: A Journal of Women’s Socially Engaged Literature*. She also has two publications forthcoming this fall: “Song of Animals” will be published in the *Mid-American Review* and “A Good Horse” will be published in *Interim Magazine*.

She also presented her paper, “The Effects of Highly Structured Critical Reflective Writing Assignments on Metacognition in Higher Education” at the 2013 conference of the Northern Rocky Mountain Educational Research Association (NRMERA), themed “Mind, Brain, and the Science of Education” (the paper was presented with David Erickson).

Prageeta Sharma’s fourth collection of poetry *Undergloom*, takes its title from the descent into Hell in the opening passage of Homer's *Iliad*: "and crowded brave souls into the undergloom." Sharma chronicles personal and internal wars using the American frontier as a central metaphor to address questions of community and belonging, outsidersness, and the inevitability of a racialized self. It was published May 28, 2013.
Henrietta Goodman’s *Hungry Moon* (Mountain West Poetry Series) will be released in November. Goodman’s book launch reading is scheduled for Thursday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m. at Shakespeare & Co.

“With intimacy and depth of insight, Henrietta Goodman’s Hungry Moon suggests paradox as the most basic mode of knowing ourselves and the world. We need hunger, the poems argue, but also satisfaction. We need pain to know joy, joy to know pain. We need to protect ourselves, but also to take risks. Though the poems are drawn from personal experience, Goodman shares the conviction of such poets as Anne Sexton and Louise Glück that when the poet writes of the self, the self cannot be exempt from culpability.”  Amazon, November 2013.

Casey Charles’ poetry chapbook *Controlled Burn* (2007) was named one of the Montana Independent’s best books of the year. He is also the author of another poetry chapbook, *Blood Work* (2013).

Casey Charles explores the 1978 assassinations of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk—the first openly gay person ever elected to public office—and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone. Charles’ novel focuses on Christopher Mann, a first-year law student and San Francisco native, who, along with his study group peers, wrestles with the implications of the assassinations and the complicated trial of Supervisor Dan White, who confessed to the killings.


Casey Charles edited the 6th edition of *Cedilla* around the loose theme of “taking a risk.” Charles and a crew of volunteers read over 100 submissions from University of Montana graduate students and published authors. The submissions consisted of poetry, short stories, and creative non-fiction.
Beverly Ann Chin is Senior Series Consultant for Grammar for Writing: Common Core Enriched Edition (William H. Sadlier, 2014). The textbook program has student and teacher books for grades 6 through 12, along with online practice, resources, and assessment.

In his book published last year, Imago Mortis: Mediating Images of Death in Late Medieval Culture, Ashby Kinch argues for the affirmative quality of late medieval death art and literature, providing a new, interdisciplinary approach to a well-known body of material. He demonstrates the surprising and effective ways that late medieval artists appropriated images of death and dying as a means to affirm their artistic, social, and political identities. The book dedicates each of its three sections to a pairing of a visual convention (deathbed scenes, the Three Living and Three Dead, and the Dance of Death) and a Middle English literary text (Hoccleve’s Lerne for to die, Audelay’s Three Dead Kings, and Lydgate’s Dance of Death).

Lisa Simon — creator, producer, co-host
David Moore — advisor, contributor, co-host

A little radio program about the literature, history and culture of the American West.

Reflections West can be heard on: Montana Public Radio each Tuesday @ 8:30 pm & Wednesday @ 3:55pm, KUFM 89.1 or 91.5 reflectionswest.org

Montana Writers Live students publish on “The Write Question Blog” for KUFM.org / Montana Public Radio. Read blogs from various students. Including: SHAUN GANT and CHÉRIE NEWMAN.

http://kufm.org/category/write-question-interviews-writers-western-us
Student Achievements

Brendan Fitzgerald launched Press Pause, "a field guide to healthy news consumption," at The Morning News. The column ran for two months, during which time Fitzgerald investigated responsible sourcing during coverage of the Boston Marathon bombings, reviewed best practices for fact-checking and interviews, and spoke with writers and reporters like Rivka Galchen and Robert Krulwich.

Candie Sanderson’s flash fiction has appeared in Toad, and she has a book review out in Metamorphoses, a journal of literary translation, and another book review in the Journal of Southeast Asian American Education & Advancement.

Mark Triana presented a paper, "Fragmented Subjectivities and Post-Feminist Penance in Margaret Atwood's Oryx and Crake," on October 11, 2013, in Vancouver, WA. He also presented a paper at PAMLA titled "Jayne Mansfield as Geography: Models of Gendered Citationality in David Foster Wallace's The Broom of the System." on November 1, 2013, in San Diego, CA.

Jessica Jones presented "Writing about Place", a workshop for high school and college writing instructors that advocates for place-based education. The workshop is designed to help students experience research as a rich and engaging activity that can reveal rhetorical devices, shifting perspectives, and clues to eco-/socio-/political injustice beneath the surface of geographical locations. The presentation reflects standards set forth by the Indian Education for All act and incorporates indigenous ways of knowing.

Paige Ferro presented during The Day of Dialogue: Finding Awareness through Fiction. Ferro discussed the ways in which fiction may promote awareness regarding social issues that commonly go unaddressed or overlooked. Ferro focused primarily on gender and sexuality matters and the way homoeroticism and homosexuality are viewed not only in societies today, but also in societies throughout history. Ferro read excerpts from and highlighted works that promote these ideas and followed the reading up with a Q and A and dialogue with the audience.

Jill Melcher presented a session titled Text Sets: Trial Transcripts and Creative Drama at the state conference of the Montana Association of Teachers of English Language Arts (MATELA) in Belgrade, MT, on October 18th. As the Technology Liaison for the MATELA board, Jill attended a leadership conference in Atlanta last July and has been working on developing and maintaining the organization’s social media presence.
Staff Achievement

Maria Mangold is the Fundraising Chair for Staff Senate. Their fall fundraiser, the inaugural Diploma Dash 5k fun run, raised over $1000 for the General Scholarship Fund. Thank you, Maria, for your hard work to give the opportunity of higher education to others!

Maria also served on the Montana NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) planning committee for the state conference on September 20, 2013 at which she also co-presented a break-out session titled, “The Montana University System and the Transfer Student.” Maria and others involved in the MUS General Education council presented information on policies regarding the Transferable Core, the way General Education credits are transferred between campuses. She also demonstrated the online tool available for advisors and students to use when planning course schedules.

Leisa Greene Nelson

I am a 2011 graduate of the University of Montana earning a BA in English, creative writing, and a minor in Irish studies. For two years after graduation I worked for a studio and publishing company. During that time, I missed the incredible energy and human ties that accompanies being on campus. I’m thrilled to be back in the English department working with so many of my mentors and friends. I feel like I’m home again.

Katie Marshall

My name is Katie Marshall and I'm a first-year student here at the University of Montana from Belgrade planning to double major in English Teaching and Fine Art. I hope to join the Peace Corps and teach after attaining my four-year degree. My time is spent planning nonexistent, dream journeys to New Zealand, drinking an abundance of Chai tea, and indulging in my unhealthy obsession with Sylvia Plath and Charles Bukowski.

Phoebe Pelletier

My name is Phoebe Pelletier and I am a freshman at UM. I'm studying to earn my BA in English with a focus on Creative Writing. I am originally from Bath, Maine and I adore fall weather, love to read, and love to watch football. Missoula is a beautiful city; I love walking downtown to go shopping, and I really love the "college town" feel that it provides, especially during football season!

Joel Kempff

Joel worked for a number of years in broadcast journalism all over the northwest before returning to his education. He is an English major here at UM and looks forward to pursuing his MFA in Creative Writing. Originally from Texas, Joel has lived all around the nation, including Michigan and Oregon, but he will always think of Montana as his home.
Film Studies Documentary Film Festival

Support our student filmmakers by attending our annual Film Studies Documentary Film Festival on December 8th at 7:00 at the Crystal Theater. The festival will showcase six documentaries produced in Sean O’Brien’s documentary production class this fall.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to students and graduates who are putting their Film Studies education to good use:

- Film Festival Winner: Marshall Granger, a senior in Film Studies, took home the Best Documentary award given at the Magic City Short Film Festival shown in Billings last September. Marshall’s Asaph is a moving portrait of a local musician that was produced last fall in the Film Studies documentary production class.

- Internships to Jobs

Have you noticed the new and exciting programming at Missoula’s Roxy Theater? Thanks to Jennifer Putnam and Marshall Granger, the Roxy is now showing old classics, outstanding contemporary independent productions and dynamite documentaries. Jennifer, a 2013 Film Studies graduate who is currently manager of the Roxy, participated in a Film Studies internship at the theater prior to landing her new position. Marshal, the theater’s new assistant manager, is a senior in Film Studies. If you have a good idea regarding future programming for the theater, pass it on to Sean O’Brien, who now has friends in high places. Also, be sure to catch the Roxy’s weekly showing of David Lynch’s Twin Peaks.
Since graduating in 2011 with her BA in English with options in both Film Studies and Creative Writing, Jessica Johnston has experienced one success after another. Last spring she taught both film and writing courses at the New Mexico State University Community College (yes – with just a BA!), and this year she rejected an offer from the Media Studies program at Edinburgh Napier University in Scotland to accept a full ride to the English/Media MA program at the University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee.

Jessica is one of numerous film-savvy English Department graduates who have been accepted into top-notch media-related graduate programs in recent years.

Other successful applicants who took the Film Studies option and /or Film Studies courses include Joel Beatty, a 2011 graduate in English Teaching who received a full ride to a media-intensive Ph.D. program in writing at Michigan Technological University; Lorin Granger, a 2010 graduate in Film Studies who is doing graduate work in film archiving at Simmons College in Boston; Bryan Bello, a 2010 graduate in Literature who was accepted into Washington University’s documentary filmmaking program; Kate Elson, a 2009 graduate in Film Studies who has already received an MA in Television and Film Studies at Boston University; and Craig Meyers, a 2008 graduate in Creative Writing who has deferred acceptance to USC’s script writing program, but is currently pursuing a film-related interdisciplinary MA at The University of Montana. Students outside the English Department are benefitting from Film Studies as well. Last year Ellina Sattarova graduated from UM with an MA in German, and was accepted to the Ph.D. program in Film Studies at the University of Pittsburg. Ellina’s graduate curriculum included Film Studies courses and her masters degree thesis focused on film.
It has been a very busy and productive fall semester for Irish Studies with three courses offered in the Irish language and individual courses devoted to Irish literature, Irish dance, and Irish music. We have also had a constant stream of visitors from the beginning of term, some of whom will remain here for the year; some for the semester; and most for a very brief period, enough time to share their knowledge and talents with our students.

The President’s Lecture Series: Irish Studies joined with the Friends of Irish Studies, Humanities Montana and the President’s lecture Series to bring Simon and Maria O’Dwyer to Missoula and Butte this past September. Simon’s research into the Bronze Age instruments of Ireland has made him an internationally recognized authority in this area. His presentation here took us back 3,000 years to walk with the ghosts and listen to the sounds of ancient Ireland. He spoke of the place of music in antiquity, played the instruments he recreated from originals, and added a local touch by fashioning into musical instruments and playing two longhorns donated by Charlie Grey of the Two Bar Heart Ranch. Irish Studies plans to join with the President’s Lecture Series again next year to bring another guest from Ireland, so if there is someone in particular you would like to see here in Montana next year, let me know.

~Traolach O’Riordain
The aforementioned lecture was part of the Irish music and song course Irish Studies offers every two years with the generous support of the Friends of Irish Studies, Humanities Montana, and Culture Ireland. As the title suggests, this course traces the history of Irish music from the earliest times down to the present day. The course focuses on the inherent capacity of the tradition to accommodate new sounds and forms while remaining faithful to its ancient roots. Guest musicians from Ireland are an integral part of this program and the following is the list of those who participated, or will participate, this year.

**Simon and Maria O’Dwyer:**— Simon and Maria delivered the President’s lecture, *3,000 Years of Ancient Ireland’s Music and Instruments*, as described above.

**Gráinne Hambly:** Gráinne is recognized as the most innovative young harpist playing today. She has, as one critic pointed out, ‘broken the genteel parlor image and elevated the stature of the harp right up there with the fiddles and pipes in the realm of dynamic dance music.

**Roger Landes:** Roger Landes is one of those pioneering musicians who have taken the Greek bouzouki, adapted it to the demands of the tradition, and moved this instrument into the mainstream of Irish music.

**Méabh Begley and Páidí Mhárthain:** Both these performers are traditional singers whose songs preserve a history of their people. Some of the songs they sung in Missoula and Butte relating the experiences of the Irish emigrant were composed in Montana and are still sung in Ireland to this day.

**Liam Ó Maonlai:** Liam is one of the founding members and lead vocalist with the Irish group, the Hothouse Flowers. He is also a highly regarded traditional singer and musician whose performance will embrace a mixture of traditional and contemporary music.
Study Abroad

Irish Studies will offer two study abroad programs this coming summer. Dean Comer will take a group to Dublin for three weeks to participate in a three-credit course entitled *Brain, Mind and the Literary Imagination*. Traolach will also take a group to the Gaeltacht (the Irish-speaking area) in Dingle, County Kerry for a three-week course of study in Irish Gaelic culture.

For further information, students should contact
Dean Comer at Christopher.comer@umontana.edu, or
Traolach at traolach.oriordain@umontana.edu.

UM student, Katie Wyckoff, receiving An Fáinne from Irish Government Minister, Jimmy Deenihan, and Colleen Dube, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission

Visiting Instructors

We have two Fulbright teachers, Naoise Waldron and Sile Ni Choincheannain, teaching Irish on campus this year. We also have two Irish language and Law students, Brian de Barra and Gearóid Ó Maoldomhnaigh, assisting with conversation classes for our students.
Upcoming Readings

Alexandra Fuller
Nonfiction Craft Lecture, Friday, November 22, 12:10 - 1 pm, location LA 011, UM campus
Nonfiction Reading, Friday, November 22, 7 pm, Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall, UM campus
*Sponsored by the President's Writers-in-Residence Series*

Walter Kirn
Fiction Reading, Friday, December 6, 7 pm, Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall, UM campus
*Sponsored by the Kittredge Visiting Writer Fellowship*

Chris Dombrowski
Poetry Reading, Friday, February 7, 7 pm, Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall, UM campus
Poetry Corner Talk (day & time TBA)
*Sponsored by The Oval, Mansfield Library and Creative Writing Program*

Jess Walter
Fiction Craft Lecture, Friday, February 21, 12:10 - 1 pm, location TBA, UM campus
Fiction Reading, Friday, February 21, 7 pm, Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall, UM campus
*Sponsored by the President's Writers-in-Residence Series*

Merriam-Frontier Award Reading
Friday, March 7, 4:10 - 5 pm, Theta Rho Room, Mansfield Library, UM campus
*Sponsored by the Creative Writing Program and the Mansfield Library*

Sherwin Bitsui
Poetry Reading, Friday, March 21, 7 pm, Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall, UM campus
*Sponsored by the Hugo Visiting Writer Fellowship*

Fall 2013, Second Wind Reading Series — Sundays, 6 pm at the Badlander
11/24 Rachel Finkelstein and Ryan Bell
12/8 Jack McCrone and Bryan Di Salvatore
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 Kelley.Willett@mso.umt.edu or (800) 443-2593, (406) 243-2646.