

English News

Volume 1, Issue 1

English News

March 1, 2010

The English Department's newsletter tradition is off to a slow start this year, thanks to the changing of the chair guard. During the months of silence, our faculty, students, and alumni have been toiling away. Therefore, this edition of the newsletter is dedicated exclusively to shameless bragging.

Enjoy!

~ Jill Bergman, Department Chair

Who's Here

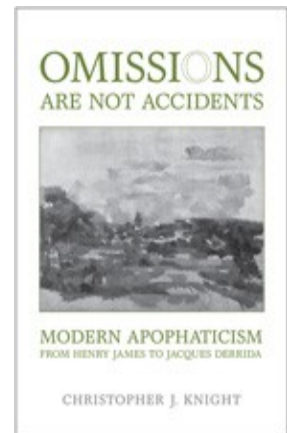
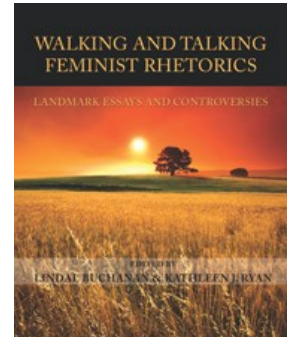
This year, Peter Orner joined us for the Fall semester as the Kittredge Writer. Eileen Myles is now with us as the Hugo Fellow. Poets Peter Richards and Brian Blanchfield are visiting faculty. Others filling out our teaching faculty include: Bernadette Sweeney (Drama), Erin Brown (ENCR and WRIT), Amy Ratto-Parks (WRIT), Dave Christensen (ENT), Christa Umphrey (ENT), Jason Cooper, David Gilcrest, Elizabeth Hubble, Donna Mendelson, and Bob Pack (all LIT). Thank you!

Who's Away

Ashby Kinch is on sabbatical this year, working on a book on late medieval artistic and literary representations of death. Karen Volkman, Joanna Klink, and Lynn Itagaki have all taken voluntary leaves. We look forward to Karen's return in the Fall.

Who's Teaching from Starbucks

Brian Buckbee, Andy Smetanka, Jason Cooper, and Russ Van Paeppeghem have all taken on the challenge of teaching on-line courses for us.



*It is difficult
to get the news
from poems
yet men die
every day
for lack of what
is found
there*

*William
Carlos
Williams*

Faculty Accomplishments

Publications

Brian Blanchfield published several poems in *Boston Review* and *Lana Turner*. Previously published poems have been translated and included in the bilingual anthology *Nuova Poesia Americana*. **Beverly Chin**: paper "Effective Strategies for Engaging Middle School Students in Writing and Grammar Instruction" (William H. Sadlier). **Brady Harrison's**

book was published by Nebraska. **Nancy Cook**: "Writing Water in the West: Reclaiming the Language of Reclamation" in *The Bureau of Reclamation History Essays from the Centennial Symposium*; **Chris Knight's** and **Kate Ryan's** books are now available from Toronto and Parlor Press, respectively.

Presentations and Readings

Robert Baker: "Circling,

Singing, Scoring: Styles of Meaning in Modernist Poetry," Modernist Studies Association Conference. **Kevin Canty** read from his book, *Where the Money Went*, in a variety of locales, including The Hague, Netherlands. **Beverly Chin**: keynote at Arizona English Teachers Association; featured speaker at NW Regional NCTE Conference in BC; "Thinking Outside the Classroom" at Ask An Alum program.

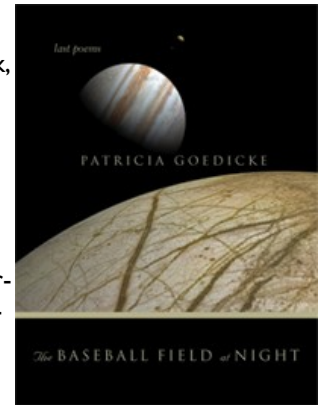
Faculty Accomplishments, Continued

Brady Harrison organized a panel, "Populist and Post-populist Approaches to Montana Literature" at the Western Literature Association Conference (WLA). He presented "Toward a Postpopulist Criticism" as part of that panel. **Nancy Cook:** presented on sustainability at the 2009 Graduate Student and Faculty Research Conference Roundtable; paper on ranching at Assoc. for Study of

Literature and Environment; paper on D.J. Waldie's *Holy Land* at WLA; **David Moore:** "'give my life back to me': Narrative Sovereignty in Debra Earling's *Perma Red*" at WLA; **Katie Kane:** "Settler Colonialism, Genocide and the Problem of Indigenous Identity and Citizenship" American Studies Assoc. Conference. **Sean O'Brien:** documentary, "Be thou always as a guest," will be broadcast by PBS.

Awards and Honors

Patricia Goedicke's book, *The Baseball Field at Night* (Lost Horse Press) is a semifinalist in the 2009 Independent Publisher Book Awards. **Nancy Cook's** essay, "Writing Water in the West," received Honorable Mention for the Western Lit. Assoc.'s Don D. Walker Award.



On stage, from left to right, Alice McDermott, Debra Magpie Earling, W. Ralph Eubanks and Francine Prose. (James R. Brantley, Washington Post Sept. 23, 2009)

More Awards and Honors

The *Irish Voice* newspaper included **Katie Kane** and **Traolach O'Riordain** in its inaugural Irish Education 100 list, honoring the nation's top one hundred education professionals of Irish descent. Katie and Traolach were recognized in a reception at the American Irish Historical Society in New York. **Debra Earling** was one of twelve writers to read a mini-story at the 21st Annual PEN/Faulkner Fiction Gala in Washington D.C.

Random Acts of Professionalism

Beverly Chin worked on a variety of projects: she co-directed the grant-funded Writing Instruction Now (WIN) pilot assessment of sixth grade writing; she participated in the MT Office of Public Instruction meeting to review the National Common Core; she participated in the MSU College of Education's Consortium on Writing: Today's Writers, Tomorrow's Teachers. **Katie Kane** wrote and successfully applied for a \$45,000 grant from the Irish government to fund the Gathering, an archival recovery project that will collect and compile the stories of Irish in Montana. Along with **Bernadette Sweeney,**

Kane applied for and secured \$5,000 additional funding from Humanities Montana. **Brian Blanchfield** wins this issue's award for most unusual professional activity: he was a principle performer in a dance/performance video about nineteenth century exercises for Austrian men and boys, such as chopping, sawing, and stepping over sticks. The video, by Jesse Aron Green, is in the Whitney Museum through May.

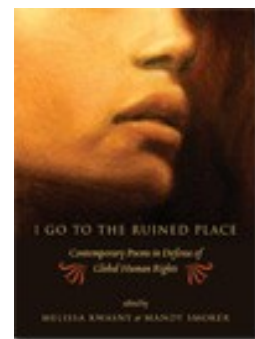
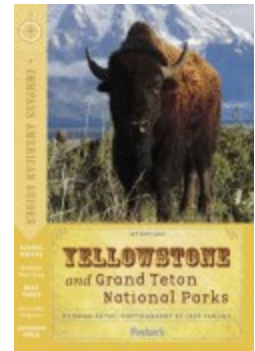


Our Impressive Graduate Students

Lehua M. Taitano (MFA) published her short story, “Goliath,” in the July I issue of *Fiction at Work*. The story has been selected for an anthology coming out from Green Lantern Press this year. Her short story, “Suit,” which appeared in *Versal (VII)* was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Lehua’s essay, “Reticulation,” was chosen as the winning entry in The Contaminated Essay Contest. AND, her story, “Guahan,” has been selected for inclusion in the *Anthology of Indigenous Writers from Micronesia*. **Catie Moore (MFA)** and **Lisa Schumaier (MFA)** won the 2009 Academy of American Poets contest for “Fake Iraq’s Blooming” (Moore) and “Topic Sentences” (Schumaier). **Tom Seiler (MA)** presented a paper at the Global Conference on Monsters and the Monstrous at Oxford University. **A.J. Jackson (MA)** presented a paper at the Western American Literature Association conference. **Megan Kruse (MFA)** published her story, “Dollywood” in *Witness* magazine. Her essay “Constellation” appeared in the January 2010 issue of *The Sun*. **Mark Mayer (MFA)** was awarded \$500 through the Mike and Maureen Mansfield Center Internship program.

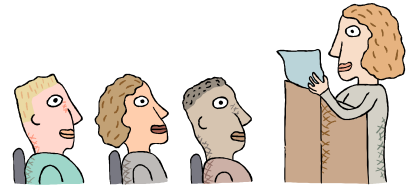
Our Amazing Alumni

Michael Lukas (MA) presented a paper at the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. **Kristen Gleason (MFA '09)** was awarded an honorable mention in the Academy of American Poets contest for her poem, “Longyearbyen.” **Rob Schlegel (MFA '04)**’s book, *The Lesser Fields*, received the 2009 Colorado Prize for Poetry. **Josh Corey (MFA '99)** was awarded the Dorset prize (\$10,000). **Mike Kautz ('09)** has been awarded a Fulbright. He will be a lecturer in English and American Studies at Ataturk University in Erzurum, Turkey. **Rose Bunch ('06)** won the Dorothy Churchill Cappon Prize of \$1,500 from *New Letters* magazine for her essay, “Norman Mailer is Coming to Dinner.” **Brian Kevin (MFA '09)** will have his essay “Songs (Largely) in the Key of Life,” published in *The Colorado Review*. His book, *Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks*, is out now. **Aaron Shulman (MFA '09)** has a short story forthcoming in *The Literary Review*. He received a Fulbright Fellowship to write and teach in Guatemala. **Andrew Sean Greer (MFA '96)** and **Kim Barnes (MFA'95)** made the long list for the prestigious Impac Dublin prize this year. **Melissa Kwasny (MFA'99)** and **M.L. Smoker (MFA'03)** edited the anthology, *I Go to the Ruined Place: Contemporary Poems in Defense of Global Human Rights* (Lost Horse Press). **Kwasny**’s latest poetry collection, *Reading Novalis in Montana*, was selected as one of the ten top books of 2009. **John Barnes (MA/MFA '88)**’s 27th book, *Tales of the Madman Underground: An Historical Romance 1973*, was named as a 2010 Michael Printz Honor Book.



Upcoming Events

Literature and Research Colloquium (LARCs)



Friday, March 12: Debra Earling, “The Lost Journals of Sacajawea”

Friday, April 16: Heather Bruce and David Moore, “The Rhetorics and Poetics of Peacebuilding”

All LARC presentations take place on **Fridays at 4 PM in Fine Arts 302** and receptions follow. The LARC series is sponsored by the Department of English and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Harrington Seminar Room Dedication Ceremony Join English Department members, past and present, along with campus and community friends in dedicating the seminar room, Liberal Arts 210, named for the late Hank Harrington, English Professor Emeritus. Friday, March 5, five to seven pm, in LA 210 and environs.

Peter Gizzi & Elizabeth Willis Poetry Reading Friday, March 12, 7 p.m., Dell Brown Room in Turner Hall, reception afterwards at Prageeta Sharma’s (431 Adams Street)

Peter Richards Poetry Reading Friday, April 23, 7 p.m., Dell Brown Room in Turner Hall, Reception at Kevin Canty’s (1015 Locust St.)

MFA Thesis Readings (times & locations to be announced):

Megan Kruse, Liz Newlon, Lehua M. Taitano (fiction) Friday, April 30
July Oskar Cole, Molly Curtis, John Myers (poetry) Saturday, May 1
Robert Brandon Henderson, Greg Lickenbrock (nonfiction & fiction) Sunday, May 2

Inga Aesoph, Carrie Ojanen, Maren Vespia (nonfiction & poetry) Friday, May 7

Dylan Mohr & Sara Pevar (fiction) Saturday, May 8

Winner of the Merriam-Frontier Award Reading Thursday, March 18, 4 p.m., Poetry Corner of the Mansfield Library



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