

A photograph of a campus scene. In the foreground, a red banner with a green five-pointed star is hanging from a black pole. The background shows a white building with a door and green trees. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Miscellany

**Department of English
Texas State University**

Fall 2013

September

Octavio Pimentel and Miriam Williams will present “Opening Technical Communication to Discussions of Race and Ethnicity: A Conversation between Scholars in Technical Communication and Rhetoric and Composition” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, taking place in March 2014. At the same conference, Nancy Wilson will present “Exclusive Inclusivity: Exploring Why Individuals with Disabilities So Often Are Not, But Should Be, Included in Diversity Initiatives.” Nancy is on a panel with graduate students Shaun Bryan (MARC), Michelle Elliott (Occupational, Workforce and Leadership Studies), and Caroline Richardson (MARC): “Co-Cultural Dis/Ability Discourses: Redefining Access in the Cs.” Also at the conference, Rebecca Jackson will present “Laboring for Access (and Money): Directing a Virtual Writing Center in a For-Profit Institution,” on the panel “Neither Here nor There: Opening the Story of Writing Center Labor.”

John Blair has been named the winner of Florida Review’s 2013 Editors’ Award. In selecting his poems, the editors noted that they “had so many stunning entries, all of which had elements of your poems, but none fired on all pistons in just the same way. Your poems are beautifully controlled, while meandering down through a subject, gathering moments of wonderful surprise. They are such a pleasure to read.” Three of John’s poems will appear in a future issue of the Florida Review: “Dirt,” “And Yet It Moves,” and “A Lesser Poet.” In addition, he will receive a \$1,000 prize.

The Huffington Post published Michael Noll’s essay on the craft of fiction, “7 Craft Lessons Every Writer Must Learn”.

Octavio Pimentel will present “Mexican Wrestlers and White Cowboys: Racist Media Spots in Television Commercials” on the panel “Racial Discourses in Media Unchained” at the 2013 Western States Rhetoric and Literacy Conference.

MARC student Alexis McGee will present her paper, “Barbie Goes Abroad: Stereotypes of The World” at the 2013 Popular/American Culture Conference.

On September 5 & 6, 2013, Scott A. Mogull spoke at a two-day trans-disciplinary symposium at the University of Cincinnati. Approximately 50 scholars from Communication and English Studies (technical and professional writing and composition & rhetoric) met for the first time at an event dedicated solely to the study of health and medical discourse. At this peer-reviewed, invitation-only event, speakers were selected based on their reputation as significant and widely respected scholars in the field of health and medical discourse. The event was sponsored by the Taft Research Center, the Urban Health Research Center, the Taft Research Center Medical Humanities Group, and the University of Cincinnati Faculty Development Council.

MARC student Megan Boeshart will present her paper “Women Narrating their Experience in the Online Gaming Community” at the 2013 FemRhet Conference, to be held at Stanford University.

MATC student Monica De Los Santos will present “Futuristic Visions, Bold Reimaginings: The Conciliatory Rhetorical World of Mesoamerica and Mestizos” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in March 2014.

Doug Dorst – along with Daniel Orozco, Ann Joslin Williams, Bret Lott and Anthony Varallo – will present “It Would Of Been a Good Panel If It Had Been Somebody There to Shoot It Every Minute Of Its Life: Contemporary Writers on Teaching Flannery O’Connor” at the 2014 Associated Writing Programs conference, to be held in Seattle.

Artifacts & Illuminations: Critical Essays on Loren Eiseley, which contains an essay by Susan Hanson, has received the Nebraska Book Award in the anthology category. Edited by Tom Lynch and Susan N. Maher, the book was published last year by the University of Nebraska Press.

3 of the 4 University Scholars awards given to new Texas State students in Liberal Arts went to English majors: Valerie Carroll (freshman), Amanda Franklin (junior), and Elisabeth Hiebeler (freshman). The scholarship totals \$14,000 over 4 years, for first-year students.

The Laurel Review has accepted two poems by MFA poetry student John Fry: “as Mary after the eclipse / of her radiance threshold” and “wrecked, solitary, there.”

Ogaga Ifowodo has been awarded a grant by The Ford Foundation, through the Institute of International Education, Inc. (IIE), for the purpose of organising a three-day “Youth Empowerment” workshop in creative writing and performance (fiction and poetry) for 20 secondary school students in Warri, Delta state, of his native Nigeria. Warri is a major oil and port city of the Niger Delta where Nigeria’s oil and gas resources are concentrated but has been troubled by civil unrest and crime due to massive poverty and environmental pollution resulting from the irresponsible actions of oil companies and the Nigerian government. The workshop will take place in October or November.

Anne Winchell’s flash fiction story “The Creatives” was published by **The Story Shack**, an online

collection of flash fiction.

Cartwheel, by MFA fiction faculty member Jennifer Dubois, is one of the Top Ten Books selected by librarians nationwide – for October.

October

MFA poetry student Vanessa Johnson has two poems (“3 Types of Fear That May Be Keeping You Fit From How to Overcome” and “What happens when health advice becomes partially hydrogenated”) in the latest issue of **Shuf**.

Twister Marquiss designed and built the website to accompany the current exhibition on display, “The Writer’s Road: Selections from the Sam Shepard Papers”. The physical exhibition was co-curated by Chad Hammett, who has also edited a book on the Sam Shepard / Johnny Dark letters titled **Two Prospectors**, due out soon from University of Texas Press. The online exhibition on this new website includes an interactive virtual tour of the exhibition; users can click display-case items to see larger images and learn more information. The website also highlights the release of the book of letters and a documentary film about Shepard and Dark, as well as the Wittliff Collections’ holdings of Shepard materials.

Amanda Mixon presented “Not Funny Haha, Funny Queer”: Rural Queer Life in Richard Linklater’s **Bernie**, at the South Central Modern Language Association Conference held recently in New Orleans.

Dan Lochman’s chapter, “Friendship’s Passion’: Love-Fellowship in Sidney’s **New Arcadia**,” which appeared in **Discourses and Representations of Friendship in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1700** – ed. by Dan, Maritere Lopez, and Lorna Hutson (Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2010) – is cited and summarized in a recent issue of Year’s Work in English Studies.

MFA fiction graduate Ray Robertson is touring in support of his sixth novel, **David**. He’ll be appearing at a number of book festivals: Brooklyn Book Festival, Wordstock in Portland, Litquake in San Francisco, and the Texas Book Festival. **David** has been made a selection of a national book club; Ray will make appearances at chapters in Detroit, Seattle, and Los Angeles. While in Texas, he’ll be making presentations to John Blair’s 2360 classes.

M.A. Literature student Deanna Rodriguez’s essay, “The Absurdity of Suicide: The Existential Struggle Explored by Vonnegut in **Breakfast of Champions**” will be published in the journal **New Academia**.

Jennifer Dubois’s **Cartwheel** received a full-page review in the October 11 **New York Times Book Review**.

At the Fall 2014 Faculty Convocation, Steve Wilson will receive the Everette Swinney Teaching Award.

Tomas Morin recently has had poems accepted for publication by **Poetry**; **32 Poems**; and **American Poetry Review**, as well as an interview with former Poet Laureate Philip Levine. His poem (“Heretic That I Am”) in the current issue of Threepenny Review has just been reprinted on **Poetry Daily**. Along with David Roderick, Paul Otremba, Shara Lessley, and Rachel Richardson, he will be participating in the panel “Under the Radar Trends in Contemporary American Poetry” at the 2014 Associated Writing Programs conference, to be held in Seattle.

At the Western Literature Association Conference in Berkeley, CA, Mark Busby presented “Old Men Remembering Wars: Hemingway’s **Across the River and into the Trees** and McCarthy’s No Country for Old Men.” At the Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers meeting in Fort Worth, Mark read a story entitled “I Can’t Help but Wonder Where We’re Bound.” And his essay “Rolling the Stone, Sisyphus, and the Epilogue of **Blood Meridian**” appears in the casebook **They Rode On: Blood Meridian and the Tragedy of the American West**, published this fall by the Cormac McCarthy Society.

Rob Tally’s review of **The International Relations of Middle-earth: Learning from *The Lord of the Rings***, by Abigail E. Ruane and Patrick James, appears in the current issue of **Mythlore**.

Liz Buchta, a representative from Apple, Inc., reports that the company has hired five students who completed a year working in the AppleCare college program this year, one of whom was an English major. In addition, Apple hired seven graduates from May 2012 and May 2013 who had not been in the AppleCare college program, one of whom earned an MA in Technical Communication.

Amanda Mixon will present “A Queer Battle-Axe: Jeanette Winterson’s Working-Class Identity” at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, to be held in Albuquerque February 2014.

James Knippen’s poem “Oaks” will be published in **The Missouri Review Online**.

Jennifer duBois is one of ten recipients nationwide of the 2013 Whiting Award for her novel **Cartwheel**. The prestigious award is presented to emerging writers of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and plays.

MATC graduate Mandy Glover was recognized for her project management work and received a leadership award at the 2013 National Instruments-Technical Communication conference. In June 2013, Mandy was promoted to Staff Technical Writer - Project Lead.

MARC students Alexis McGee and Megan Boeshart have been awarded a Texas State Equity and Access Diversity Grant to fund an African American Rhetoric and Hip Hop Literacies Symposium,

for which they will bring Dr. Elaine Richardson and Dr. Adam Banks to campus.

A story on Susan Morrison reading from her mother Joan Wehlen's **Home Front Girl**, which Susan edited, appeared in the Morristown, New Jersey **Daily Record**.

MATC graduate Kim Jeske ended her first year at National Instruments by receiving a Rookie of the Year award at the 2013 National Instruments-Technical Communication conference, along with two nominations for the Technical Writing Excellence award.

Michael Noll moderated the panel "What We Talk About When We Talk About War" at the Texas Book Festival. The panel included the authors Bob Shacochis (longlisted for the National Book Award for **The Woman Who Lost Her Soul**), Aminatta Forna (**The Hired Man**), and Lea Carpenter (**Eleven Days**). Michael also led a conversation with screenwriter Ron Nyswaner (**Philadelphia**, **The Painted Veil**, and the Showtime series **Ray Donovan**) at the Austin Film Festival.

Pinfan Zhu presented "Effective Information Design as a Means to Ensure the Success of International Business" at the Annual Conference of International Organization of Social Science and Behavioral Research, held Oct. 14 in New Orleans.

November

MFA fiction faculty member Jennifer Dubois was featured on the front page of the **Austin-American Statesman's** Life & Entertainment section. She also appeared at the Texas Book Festival to discuss her new novel, **Cartwheel**.

Doug Dorst's latest book, **S**, is receiving much positive reception in the press: **The Los Angeles Times**; **Slate**; London's **The Financial Times**; and London's **The Independent**.

With almost 200 students in attendance, the Texas State Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society hosted a viewing of **The Ernest Green Story** on Wednesday, November 6.

Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler has been elected President of the Executive Committee for the San Marcos Chapter of the Texas Faculty Association.

MA Literature student Deanna Rodriguez has created a Facebook page for the MA in Literature program with information about the program and related matters, as well as a Facebook discussion group, accessible by Facebook users from the main page. The group already has 45 participants.

MFA fiction graduate Erin Pringle-Toungate has won the Two Year College English Association of the Pacific Northwest Lisa Ede Teaching Excellence Award. Erin has been honored with this award

for her “commitment to student success, diversity and service.”

Amanda Mixon will present “‘There’s no nice way of saying this; the Whites are white trash’: White Racial Identity in **The Wild and Wonderful Whites of West Virginia**” at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference in Chicago this coming April.

Senior lecturer Stephanie Noll has been granted six hours of Adjunct Faculty Workload Release time for the Spring 2015 semester. The Adjunct Faculty Committee approved a proposal that Stephanie submitted titled “Old Books for New Teachers,” a project dedicated to providing students who successfully graduate from the secondary English student teaching experience with the means to develop classroom libraries. Stephanie will use the release time to write grants and forge partnerships within the community that will help support this project. This is the first year the university is offering Adjunct Faculty Workload releases.

The November 24 Sunday Book Review of **The New York Times** features an audiobook version of **The Things They Carried** by Tim O’Brien, Professor of Creative Writing. Film critic A. O. Scott praises the reading by Bryan Cranston (from the TV series **Breaking Bad**) as well-suited to O’Brien’s morally ambiguous fiction. Scott writes that O’Brien’s book sits “on the narrow shelf of indispensable works” by those who have witnessed warfare. The audio version of the book also includes Tim reading his classic 1994 essay, “The Vietnam in Me.”

“Darryl Strawberry,” by MFA fiction student Justin Carroll, has been published in the Winter/Spring 2014 issue of **Gulf Coast**.

As part of the Graduating Student Recognition of Campus Support program, August 2013 graduates identified the following English faculty as contributing significantly to their success and development: Libby Allison, John Blair, Mark Busby, Nancy Grayson, Katie Kapurch, Caitlin McCrory, Susan Morrison, Keith Needham, Marilynn Olson, Rob Tally, Susie Tilka, Miriam Williams, Nancy Wilson, Steve Wilson and Pinfan Zhu.

Colin Pope been offered a summer residency at the Vermont Studio Center, beginning in May. Four of Colin’s poems will appear in the anthology **The Burden of Light: Poems on Illness and Loss**, to be published in 2014.

MA Rhetoric/Composition student Graham Oliver has had a book review of George Orwell’s **Homage to Catalonia** published in **The Rumpus**. This year marks the book’s 75th anniversary.

December

English major Anna Tenhamn, who will graduate this December, has accepted a position teaching English at Morton Ranch High School, in Katy, TX.

Cedric Synnestvedt's short story "Stargazer" appears in this month's online issue of **PANK**.

MA Literature student Teri Fickling has received a Thesis Research Support Fellowship from the Graduate College, in the amount of \$2000, to support her thesis research.

Rob Tally's new book, **Poe and the Subversion of American Literature: Satire, Fantasy, Critique**, will be released by Bloomsbury in January 2014. At the upcoming MLA convention in Chicago, Rob will present "The Allure of Radical Alterity: Teaching Literature as Critical Estrangement" (for a panel of the Division Executive Committee on the Teaching of Literature) and "Post-Americanist Criticism: The New Americanists after the American Century."

MFA fiction faculty member Jennifer Dubois has sold her third novel, which will be published by Random House.

Home Front Girl, edited by Susan Morrison from her mother's manuscript, was nominated in the Young Adult Nonfiction category for the Cybils 2013 (Children's and Young Adult Bloggers' Literary Awards).

MARC faculty member Octavio Pimentel will serve on the 2014 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Committee, expected to distribute about \$5,000,000 in scholarships.

