



Miscellany

Department of English
Texas State University

Spring 2011

January

Libby Allison has been awarded a \$1,500 Library Research Grant from Alkek Library. Libby says that graduate student Susan Rauch also deserves credit for helping develop the grant proposal, which is to add medical and health care books and resources from Medieval, Renaissance/Early Modern, and Enlightenment periods to the library collection. Libby is working with Susan on discourse analysis of how language in medical handbooks from these periods either promotes or resists the stigmatization of mental illness and brain disorders.

Three MARC students will present papers at the March Southwest Council of Latin American Studies Conference, to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico: Justin Whitney will present “Latent Racism: The Child of Ignorant, though Well-meaning Parents”; Alyssa Crow, “A Tale of Two ISDs: A Comparison of Access in Texas Public Schools”; and Lisa Bovee, “Pedagogy-Topia: A Perspective on Students’ Right To Their Own Language.” Octavio Pimentel will serve as chair and discussant for the panel, entitled “Minority vs. Majority Rhetoric: 3 Perspectives.”

Kirkus Reviews has named Tom Grimes’ **Mentor** a “Best Memoir of 2010” and a “Best Nonfiction Book of 2010.” In addition, **The Cleveland Plain Dealer** selected the book as a “New and Noteworthy” paperback; Time Out Chicago listed it as a “Top Twenty Book of 2010”; and **Las Vegas City Life** selected it as a “Top Ten Book of 2010.”

MFA poetry student Scot Erin Briggs has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize by **Blood Orange Review**, for her poem entitled “Target Practice.”

MA Lit graduate Lauren Kaercher has been hired as the “Marketing and Client Services” associate at Austin, Calvert & Flavin, an investment advisory firm in San Antonio.

Graeme Wend-Walker will present “Theory Will Eat Itself: Children’s Literature at the Crossroads of Critical Consciousness” at the MLA Annual Convention in Los Angeles this January.

Aaron Deutsch has accepted a position teaching ESL courses at Lackland Air Force Base. Two of his poems – “Forgive Me, Father, For I Love Sin” and “A Confession” – will be published by **Night Train**.

Miriam Williams’ book, **From Black Codes to Recodification: Removing the Veil from Regulatory Writing**, which is part of the Baywood Technical Communication Series, was favorably reviewed in the current issue of **IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication**: “Williams’ text makes a significant contribution to the body of scholarship that broadens the scope of the field of technical communication – in theory and in practice – to include topics that focus on social and legal concerns and issues of civic engagement, public policy, and political discourse.”

MFA fiction student Joe Vastano is one of the ten finalists in this year’s **Austin Chronicle** short story contest; winners will be announced on February at the Austin Book People. Joe also took 2nd place in the **Glimmer Train** short story contest this past fall.

MFA poetry student James Knippen is a featured poet on **Softblow** for the month of January. The online journal has published four of James’ poems.

Rob Tally’s review of Fredric Jameson’s **Valences of the Dialectic** appears online in the Marx & Philosophy Review of Books.

“Suburban Prophecy,” a poem by MA Literature student Heather Anastasiu, will appear in an upcoming issue of **REAL: Regarding Arts & Letters**.

MFA fiction student David Norman’s short story, “Redwater Ranch,” appears in the current online issue of **Gulf Stream**, and his essay “Flight Patterns,” about the late MFA poetry student and friend Jennie Wrisley, will be published this spring in **Memoir (and)**. Two of Jennie’s poems, “Queen Anne’s Lace” and “Thirst,” appear in the current issue of **Copper Nickel**.

Recent MA Literature graduate Micah Robbins and his wife Gina welcomed their second child, Diego Andrés, on January 15.

Pinfan Zhu’s article, coauthored with Junhua Wang, “Linking Contextual Factors with Rhetorical Pattern Shift: Direct and Indirect Strategies Recommended in English Business Communication Textbooks in China,” appears in the latest issue of the **Journal of Technical Writing and Communication**.

MATC student Susan Killebrew Davey’s article, “Technology and Innovation: Elevator Regulatory Speaks to Universities,” has been accepted by **World Elevator Magazine**, an international publication covering worldwide matters related to the history, technology, safety, and operation of elevators. Ms. Davey’s article is an interview with Lawrence Taylor, Chief Elevator Inspector for Texas. Ms. Davey, who is Texas State’s Business and Construction Warranties Manager for the campus Facilities Department, wrote the article as part of her coursework in the graduate

Foundations in Technical Communication course last fall.

For the third straight year, Octavio Pimentel was selected to serve on the 2011 Gates Millennium Scholars application committee, which will select undergraduate and graduate awardees for 1,000 full-tuition scholarships. This scholarship is supported by a 1.6 billion dollar Bill and Melinda Gates donation.

Tom Grimes's **Mentor: A Memoir** has been named to Barnes & Noble's Top 100 "Best Books of 2010," its Top 40 "Best Biographies of 2010," and its Top 7 "Best Literary Biographies of 2010."

"Curiosity," a short story by MFA fiction writer Sean Trolinder, has been accepted for publication in **The Sand Hill Review**. "Curiosity" is part of his MFA thesis in progress.

An essay by Graeme Wend-Walker, on the subject of "tikkun," appears in the 25th-anniversary edition of **Tikkun**.

"Insult," a short story by MFA fiction student Josh Collins, will appear in the upcoming issue of **Quick Fiction**, and his story "I Wish I Was a Mole in the Ground" will appear in the next issue of **Required**.

Chris Martin's first full-length collection of poems will be among the first titles published by Compline Books; titled simply **Two Books**, it will also be his first double-length collection. Chris also has review essays on Myung Mi Kim and Rachel Blau Duplessis forthcoming in **Jacket2**.

Marc Watkins will serve as a fiction editor for the next edition of the Pushcart Prize. His story "Two Midnights in a Jug," which appears in **The Pushcart Prize XXXV: Best of the Small Presses**, will be featured in an anthology from Poets & Writers. He also has a story, "A Wooden Nickel Life" in **StoryQuarterly** 44.

February

MATC student Spencer Williamson will begin working as a Technical Writer and Editor for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Business Oversight, Internal Control Service, in Austin on February 14.

MA Literature student Heather Anastasiu has just signed a three-book deal with St. Martin's Press for **Glitch**, a young-adult trilogy about a cybernetically enhanced teenager living in an underground society.

Debra Monroe's book, **On the Outskirts of Normal: Forging a Family Against the Grain**, has appeared on four 2010 Best Ten lists in all, including **The Barnes & Noble Review**, **The San**

Antonio Express, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and Southern Living.

MFA graduate Rene Perez has just signed a contract with the University of Arizona Press to publish his collection of short stories **Along These Highways**. The book will be out next year in the press' Camino del Sol series.

David Meischen, an MFA fiction student who graduated in 2008, has stories forthcoming in the **Bellingham Review** and **Talking Writing**.

Steve Wilson's poem "The Dead Sea" will appear in an upcoming issue of **The Midwest Quarterly**.

MFA fiction student Behjamin Reed's short story, "The Quiet Hunt," was picked by Junot Díaz as the winner of Avery Anthology's second annual Small Spaces Fiction Prize. Benjamin also received honorable mention for their flash fiction contest. His short story "King of the Apes" will appear in **Arcadia**.

Rob Tally's brief essay, "On Literary Cartography: Narrative as a Spatially Symbolic Act," appears in the inaugural issue of **New American Notes Online**.

Tom Grimes' **City of Literature** interview about his memoir, **Mentor**, is now online.

Twister Marquiss' photography collection "Wyoming, Summer 2010" is currently being presented as both a front-page feature on the **Narrative Magazine** website and as the subject of two of the magazine's "Literary Puzzler" items.

MATC alumnus Michael Trice is a Presidential Doctoral Fellow in Technical Communication and Rhetoric at Texas Tech University. He has a chapter, "How We Comment on Web Journalism: A Case Study on Dialogue Found in News Articles," coming out in March in **Ethics in Emerging Media Information, Social Norms, and New Media**, edited by Bruce E. Drushel and Kathleen German, and published by Continuum.

Roger Jones' poem "Chalmette" appears in the new issue of **Red River Review**.

Francesca Welsh, a sophomore who recently completed a year in Chris Martin's First-Year Writing classes, is now blogging for the Army Strong Stories website. **The University Star** recently profiled Welsh.

Ogaga Ifowodo's poem "Sixty Lines by the Lagoon" appeared online in the **Maple Tree Literary Supplement**. Ogaga's debut in published prose fiction is the short story "The Treasonable Parrot," appearing in **AGNI** no. 72 (November 2010); on 10 November 2010, Ogaga spoke on a panel as part of activities to launch the portfolio on contemporary African fiction that was a special feature of the issue. On 8 November 2010, Ogaga presented the annual Senghor-Damas-Césaire lecture at Villanova University, PA. The event commemorated the 15th anniversary of the 1995 judicial murder of Nigerian playwright, writer and activist, Ken Saro-Wiwa – then spokesman of

the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), and also former president of the Association of Nigerian Authors – alongside eight of his fellow Ogoni minority and environmental rights activists. Ogaga’s lecture, entitled “Towards a Psychoanalysis of the Dysfunctional Post-Colonial Nation-State,” was preceded by a reading from his latest poetry volume, **The Oil Lamp**, which explores the human tragedy of the Niger Delta.

The February 10 edition of the **Lockhart Post-Register** highlighted creative writing workshops funded by a new Departmental scholarship that has made possible a collaboration between the MFA program and the Lockhart ISD. Three MFA students – Brett Bisceglia, Ledia Xhoga, and Katie Ellison – each gave a half-day workshop recently. Reports from participants and observers have been glowing. The Department very much appreciates the generosity of Lockhart resident Dr. Rebecca Hawener, who made the scholarship program possible.

MATC alumna Amanda (“Mandy”) Grover has been hired as a technical writer by National Instruments in Austin. Mandy, who was an IT Operations Technical Writer for the Texas Department of Health Services in Austin, begins working for National Instruments March 7.

An article on Gordon Taylor, a Texas State student currently featured as a “Rising Star” on the University homepage, discusses the impact Nancy Wilson made on his growth into a community leader.

A post about the reading series conducted by MFA students at the Wittliff Collections appeared on the February 10 Texas State Blog.

On February 19, MA Literature student Nita Novianti conducted a crafts demonstration at the San Marcos Public Library, on the Indonesian tradition “Kuda Lumping.” **The San Marcos Daily Record** highlighted her presentation in its February 17 edition.

Twister Marquiss has been selected as a “Den” namesake for a PAWS Preview program for 2011. In her letter informing him of the honor, PAWS Preview Committee Co-Chair Lanita Legan wrote: “Students on the Texas State campus were invited last semester to recommend someone they felt made a positive impact on the campus, and our office received numerous nominations. Your selection as a namesake was based upon what was written about you as an individual and the overall impact you have made both on students and the campus community.”

Steve Wilson’s poems “How to Get Out of a Scene” and “L’Hotel des Grands Hommes” will appear in **Classifieds: An Anthology of Prose Poems**, due out this spring.

The following faculty and staff received letters from December 2010 graduates as part of the Graduating Student Recognition of Campus Support program, through which students identify people who made a contribution to their academic careers: Deb Balzhiser, Sue Beebe, John Blair, Karen Bryson, Cyrus Cassells, Paul Cohen, Robin Cohen, Nancy Grayson, June Hankins, Susan Hanson, Mike Hennessy, Elvin Holt, Dale Hudson, Ogaga Ifowodo, Rebecca Jackson, Caroline

Jones, Roger Jones, Kendall Kelly, Edgar Laird, Kitty Ledbetter, Priscilla Leder, Dan Lochman, Maria Lombardo, Debra Monroe, Tomas Morin, Susan Morrison, Keith Needham, Stephanie Noll, Marilynn Olson, Kathleen Peirce, Nelly Rosario, Teya Rosenberg, Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler, Jon Marc Smith, Victoria Smith, Rob Tally, Susan Tilka, Graeme Wend-Walker, Miriam Williams, Nancy Wilson, Steve Wilson, Pinfan Zhu.

The following faculty were sent forward to the various University selection committees as the College of Liberal Arts' nominees for the Presidential Awards for Excellence: for teaching, John Blair and Nancy Wilson; for scholarly / creative activity, Rob Tally; for service, Paul Cohen and Octavio Pimentel.

Twister Marquiss will be the featured guide for CNN's "My City, My Secret" piece on San Marcos. Filming will take place in the second week of March. The initial air date has not yet been set. Twister's photo portfolio, "Wyoming Skies," now appears in the "Backstage" section of **Narrative Magazine**, accessible to members. In a few weeks, the portfolio will move to the front-page feature and will be available free to all.

MA Literature student Heather Anastasiu's young adult **GLITCH** trilogy has sold to publishers in France, Germany, and Russia.

The just-published **Oxford Handbook of Children's Literature**, edited by Julia L. Mickenberg and Lynne Vallone, includes essays by Teya Rosenberg: "Arnold Lobel's **Frog and Toad Together** as Primer for Critical Literacy"; and by former member of the Department Claudia Nelson: "**Jade** and the Tomboy Tradition." Oxford UP describes the book as "an ambitious new resource that provides a thorough grounding in the field through a selection of original interdisciplinary essays on canonical and popular works in the Anglo American tradition."

Collin Bost, MFA fiction graduate and adjunct lecturer, will present "Interrogating the Image," a paper on documentary filmmaker Errol Morris, at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association's national conference in San Antonio.

Two poems by recent MFA poetry graduate Aaron Deutsch, "Palmistry" and "Soaping the Shadow," have been accepted by **Caper Literary Journal**.

March

The newest issue of **Precipitate**, an online journal edited by a number of our MFA students and English Department faculty, is now available.

Tomas Morin recently served as a judge for the state finals of the Poetry Out Loud competition.

A story about the Writing Center's satellite office at the Round Rock Higher Education Center appears on the College of Liberal Arts home page.

MA literature graduate Christopher Perkins has been accepted into the PhD English program at Oklahoma State University, with a teaching assistantship and a full tuition waiver.

This summer Collin Bost, MFA fiction graduate and adjunct lecturer, will present his paper, "Figures Juggling': Techniques of Transposition in the 'Sirens' Episode," at the 2011 North American James Joyce Conference in Pasadena, CA.

Twister Marquiss' article "The Protagonist of a Transcendental Story" appears in the current issue of St. Mary's University's **Gold & Blue Magazine**. The piece is a reflection on Sister Ann Semel, SSND, Ph.D., a former chair of the St. Mary's English Department who has recently retired after teaching at that institution for 43 years.

Steve Wilson's latest book of poetry, **The Lost Seventh**, is now available from Amazon.

Marc Watkins was one of eight finalists for the John Steinbeck Fellowship.

Twister Marquiss has been named by student members of the Alpha Chi Honor Society as an Alpha Chi Favorite Professor for 2011. He will be recognized at the Alpha Chi spring induction ceremony on March 24th.

MFA student Colin Pope had a poem, "Abysmal Theory of Exclamation Points," accepted for the Fall 2011 issue of **The Los Angeles Review**.

MA Literature student Spencer Coffey has been accepted into the History of Consciousness PhD program at UC-Santa Cruz. He was also offered a teaching assistantship.

Two poems by MFA poetry student John Fry, "On The Nature Of" and "Like A Partial Lunar Eclipse In February," have just been published in the inaugural issue of the **St. Sebastian Review**.

MFA fiction graduate Joe O'Connell's interview with Tom Grimes appears in the current issues of **The Writer's Chronicle**.

Graeme Wend-Walker's essay "'The Wild Colonial Boy is Selling Used Cars': An Australian Cultural Narrative in Search of Its Meaning" has been published as a chapter in **Crossing Textual Boundaries in International Children's Literature**, released this month by Cambridge Scholars.

The film **Gone Hollywood**, whose screenplay was co-written by English BA graduate David Rice, will be shown at the 14th Cine Las Americas International Film Festival, scheduled for April 21st through the 28th in Austin, Texas. **Gone Hollywood** will be screened at the Alamo Draft House on South Lamar, April 24, 4:00 PM.

MATC student Liz Cross is a contract technical writer for the Texas Attorney General's Office-Child Division Department in Austin Texas.

"Texas Immigration: Dismantling Cowboy Rhetoric," by Octavio Pimentel and Shana Hamid (MARC student), has been accepted for presentation at the Fall 2011 NCTE Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Twister Marquiss was the winner of **Narrative Magazine's** "Hundred-Character Story Challenge" for stories of 100 typed characters or less. His winning piece was 88 total characters, including spaces: "He'd made much noise about writing. Then the draft took him, and he became but a whisper."

MFA student Emily Howorth's story "The Vivarium Monarchs" has been selected as the winner of **Washington Square Review's** 2011 Fiction Award (judged by David Lipsky). The story will be published in a forthcoming issue.

Marques Redd, who was a pre-doctoral fellow in the English Department (summer 2009), under the sponsorship/mentorship of Rob Tally, has completed his PhD at UC Berkeley and accepted a tenure-track position in British Romanticism at Marquette University.

Patricia Prehn McCracken, who recently completed her MA in Literature, will present "A Phenomenological Defense of Emily Sinico: Gaston Bachelard's Cogito of the Dreamer in Joyce's 'A Painful Case'" at the North American James Joyce Conference this summer.

Undergraduate student Elissa Myers recently presented her paper, "Mrs. Ramsay, The Fisherman and Cam: Celebration and Hastening of the Death of the Victorian Family and Birth of the Individual," at the international Sigma Tau Delta conference in Pittsburgh, PA.

April

MFA fiction student Emily Howorth's story "September" will be published in the summer issue of **New Madrid**.

Debra Monroe's book **On the Outskirts of Normal** is featured in the April 2011 issue of **Southern Living**.

Kitty Ledbetter and Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler have been awarded Alkek Library grants totaling nearly \$100,000: Kitty's grant (\$20,000) is for purchase of **19th Century UK Periodicals: New Readerships**; Elizabeth's grant (\$77,127) will provide money necessary to convert **Early English Books Online** from a subscription database to a one-time purchase.

Twister Marquiss served as tour guide for a recent CNN feature on San Marcos.

The Department of English was well represented at the Native American Literature Symposium in Albuquerque, March 17-19. Robin Cohen read her paper, "She is From Out of Time Past and I Live Now: Fluid Time in Leslie Marmom Silko's Work." MA Literature student Brandy Alba presented "Coyote 'Thinks So Hard Her Nose Falls Off': The Preservation of Cultural Worldviews and Literacy Systems in Two Native American Children's Stories." Recent MFA poetry graduate Laura Decker read her "'Thinking With and Through Each Other': Contemplations on Native American Poetry, Historical Trauma, and Pedagogical Practices." In addition, former Southwest Studies minor Barbara Cook (Associate Professor and Director of the Honors Program at Mount Aloysius College) attended.

This May, Octavio Pimentel will take part in the 2011 Multicultural Curriculum Transformation Institute, sponsored by the Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies. He will work on revising his syllabus for ENG 3303.

Rob Tally's article "Post-American Literature" will appear in **49th Parallel: An Interdisciplinary Journal of North American Studies**. In advance of the Spring 2011 issue's publication, they've posted the essay on the website.

"Finding a Book Under the Bureau You Keep Your Keys On," a story by MFA fiction student Michael Rosenbaum, will appear in the next issue of the **Rio Grande Review**. Michael will also have a poem, "Old Leather Boots," appearing on the website Every Day Poets on April 27th.

Marc Watkins' story "The Gelding" appears in the spring issue of **Midwestern Gothic**.

Keith Needham, who served as faculty advisor this year for Sigma Tau Delta, reports that the group has had a banner year. Almost 80 new members were inducted, and the group's service project for INVISIBLE CHILDREN resulted in the collection of 2,808 books (100 boxes), which were shipped to Uganda for use in schools attended by children removed from war zones. Congratulations to Keith, the officers, and the entire membership on a great year.

Matt Greengold's proposal for a major upgrade of the computer equipment in Flowers Hall G13 and 114 has been funded (\$48,314) by the Academic Computing Committee. Matt and Scot Erin Briggs will have a busy summer installing the new equipment, which will be up and running at the start of the fall semester.

Steve Wilson's "Four Winter Haiku" appeared in the March 11 issue of the **Texas Observer**.

Elizabeth Threadgill has two forthcoming publications. The first "Tutoring Literature: Negotiating a Literature-Response Discourse," will appear in the College Reading and Learning Association's newest edition of the tutor training handbook. The second is an interview with Muriel Harris,

founder of Purdue's Writing Lab and OWL, titled "Writing Center Work Bridging Boundaries"; the interview will appear in volume 34/issue 2 of the **Journal of Developmental Education**.

Nancy Wilson, Sue Beebe, MFA poetry student Stephanie Noll, and MARC student Lisa Bovee will present "Say What? One Hundred Years of Pedagogical Struggles with Composition Handbooks" at the 2011 Annual Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, to be held November 17-22, in Chicago, Illinois.

Congratulations to incoming faculty member Doug Dorst, who has sold his new (collaborative) novel, which will be published in 2012.

MATC alumna Lauren Clamurro has been hired as a contract junior technical writer for H-E-B in San Antonio.

Tomas Morin has been named a finalist for the **New Issues** first book prize.

Suparno Banerjee's essay "Dystopia and the Postcolonial Nation" came out in McFarland's recently published **The Postnational Fantasy**(edited by Raja, Willis and Nandi).

Allan Chavkin has received \$3800 from the University Lectures Committee to support a visit by author Louise Erdrich to Texas State. Allan was assisted on the proposal by Tom Grimes, Robin Cohen and Paul Cohen.

MFA poetry graduate Kristy Peloquin, who serves as a Program Specialist – Coordinator with the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, was recognized with three of the Commissioners on the Texas Senate Floor recently.

The Writing Center's food drive runs through May 2. A story about the effort appears on the University's homepage.

Marc Watkins' story "The Lesson" appears in the current issue of **Boulevard**. It has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize.

The Department will be well represented at the 2011 Children's Literature Association Conference in Roanoke, VA this June. Caroline Jones will present "Changing the World: Faces of Rebellion in Suzanne Collins's Hunger Games Trilogy"; Marilyn Olson will present "'Decadent' Children Down on the Farm: The Child Portraits of Paula Modersohn-Becker"; and Teya Rosenberg will present "A Newfoundland Jack Tale: **The Queen of Paradise's Garden** and Cultural Preservation through Metropolitan Transformation." In addition, Teya Rosenberg will be joining the ChLA Executive Board as a newly elected board member.

May

MATC alumna Lonie McMichael has accepted a position as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, in the Professional and Technical Writing program.

For her internship project in ENG 5312 this spring, MATC student Krystle Gonzalez-Danuz wrote, edited, and took photos for a **Student Success Guide** for Central Texas College. The College is planning on 1,000 copies for the first printing of the publication.

Deanna Ledezma, a recent graduate who was also the 2009 Outstanding Senior in English, was awarded an Abraham Lincoln Fellowship from the University of Illinois-Chicago as she begins her second year pursuing a graduate degree in Art History. The Lincoln Fellowship has an estimated value of over \$42,000, including a non-resident tuition and service fee waiver and a monthly stipend.

Tomas Morin's poem "At the Supermarket" was recently featured on the **Narrative Magazine** website.

A.J. Ortega presented "The Less You Say Means More Airplay: The Importance of Storytelling in Rap Music" at the National Pop Culture Association Conference in San Antonio.

Twister Marquiss' third and final portfolio of Wyoming photos from last summer, "Wyoming Spaces," is now available online in **Narrative Magazine**.

MFA poetry student John Fry's poem 'Ends Stopped' will appear in the summer issue of **BorderSenses**.

Miriam Williams has been selected as the next Presidential Fellow. From September 2011 through August 2012, Miriam will be half time in the Department and half time in her new role as Fellow.

Rob Tally's essay "I Am the Mainstream Media (and So Can You!)" appears in **The Stewart/Colbert Effect: Essays on the Real Impact of Fake News**, edited by Amarnath Amarasingam (McFarland, 2011). Rob's article "Mundus Totus Exilium Est: Reflections on the Critic in Exile" appears in the current issue of **Transnational Literature**.

Courtney Werner, MARC graduate and current PhD student in Rhetoric and Composition at Kent State, has just published "Negotiating Authority: Perceptions of Age in the Writing Center" in the Spring 2011 edition of **Praxis: A Writing Center Journal**. The article is based on Courtney's MARC thesis (directed by Becky Jackson) and will be the basis for a replication study she will conduct in the fall.

MFA fiction student Josh Collins' story "I Am a Man with a Fractured Skull" will appear in the August issue of > **kill author**.

A paper on **Dracula** written this semester for Kitty Ledbetter's graduate class, by MA Literature student Erin McClurg, has been accepted for presentation at the Bram Stoker Centenary Conference at the University of Hull in England, taking place April 2012.

Steve Wilson's transformation of his American Literature to 1865 course, which he completed a few years ago in the Multicultural Curriculum Transformation Institute, is recounted in a story posted on the College of Liberal Arts' website.

On May 26, State Representative Eddie Rodriguez introduced a bill on the floor of the Texas House honoring English major Valerie Vera for her work as his Legislative intern this session through the 2011 Moreno / Rangel Legislative Leadership Program.

MFA graduates Marc Watkins ('10) and Emily Howorth ('11) are happy to announce that they are engaged. The two will be moving this summer to Oxford, Mississippi, where Emily has accepted a position as a Communications Specialist in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at Ole Miss.

Niko David Cone, son of Lindy Kosmitis and her husband Michael Cone, was born March 10 at the Austin Area Birthing Center. Lindy reports that Niko is "absolutely perfect."

Doug Dorst, our soon-to-be colleague, and his wife Debra Hansen have a new baby, Sonja Simmons Hansen Dorst, born May 15, 2011.

Octavio Pimentel and MARC students Cheyenne Riggs, Shana Hamid and Casie Moreland presented at the Conference on College Composition and Communication this past April. A story about the significance of the presentation appears on the College of Liberal Arts website.

Undergraduate student Tim McSwain has authored a children's book, **The Bird Outside Your Window**, drafts of which he shared in a recent Advanced Writing course taught by Octavio Pimentel.