



Miscellany

Department of English
Texas State University

Summer 2010

June

Debra Monroe's new book, a memoir, **On the Outskirts of Normal: Forging a Family Against the Grain**, is currently listed in the June issue of **Vanity Fair** magazine as "Required Reading." It also will be examined in a one-page feature story in **O the Oprah Magazine** in the August issue, and a story about the book and Debra appeared in a recent issue of the **Austin Chronicle**. In celebration of the new book, there will be a Book Launch Party on June 17 at 7 p.m., at BookPeople, 6th & Lamar, in Austin; proceeds from sales will benefit the local nonprofit, Extend-A-Care for Kids, which provides subsidized after-school and summer daycare to parents who otherwise can't afford it.

An article entitled "Walt Whitman's Year of Meteors," detailing the research of Marilyn Olson, Don Olson and several others, appears in the latest issue of **Sky & Telescope**. The work, which settles a long-standing scholarly question about the actual events that inspired Whitman's reference in **Leaves of Grass** to a "strange huge meteor-procession," is also discussed in recent blogs from such magazines as **Nature, New Scientist and Discover**; as well as in the Texas State News Services story now featured on the university homepage.

The following students will comprise the "Reconsidering the Beats" panel at this coming fall's American Studies Association of Texas meeting, to be held at UT-Commerce: "A Question of Identity and Liminal Space: The Subversion of Masculine Discourse in Diane di Prima's **Memoirs of a Beatnik**" will be presented by MFA poetry student Caitlin McCrory; "Walden on the West Coast: Echoes of Thoreau in Kerouac's **Big Sur**," by MA Literature student Bill Lancaster; "Diane di Prima and Bonnie Bremser Fraser's Re-purposing of the Female Body," by MFA poetry student Karen Wood; and "Transcendent Bedfellows: di Prima's **Memoirs of a Beatnik** and Hesse's **Siddhartha** and the Search for Enlightenment from a Woman's Perspective," by MA Literature student Sarah Youree. All wrote their essays for Steve Wilson's fall graduate course on American Romanticism.

Tom Grimes' forthcoming **Mentor: A Memoir** received a starred review in the latest issue of **Kirkus Reviews**.

Tim O'Brien delivered the keynote address at Whittier College's 107th commencement ceremony on May 28th, in Whittier, California. Whittier awarded Tim an honorary doctorate of humane letters (L.H. D.) at the ceremony. Also, a feature article based on Tim's recent talk at Texas State about the My Lai massacre appeared in the May 30 **Austin-American Statesman**.

Lisa Tomecek-Bias, MARC student, had her paper, "Echoes of Empire: Myth, Folklore, and the Invasion Narrative in Contemporary Japanese Animation," accepted to the 2011 Pop Culture Association/American Culture Association conference. This paper relates to her thesis research.

Caroline Jones recently completed the Multicultural Transformation and Research Institute, and will use what she learned there to transform her summer sections of ENG 3386. Caroline also took part in the Texas State workshop on Infusing Sustainability into the Curriculum, and will transform her ENG 3385 syllabus.

Miriam Williams' article "Understanding Public Policy Development as a Technological Process," which was published in the **Journal of Business and Technical Communication**, has been nominated for the National Council of Teachers of English award for Best Article on Philosophy or Theory of Technical or Scientific Communication.

Cyrus Cassells' translation of Attilio Bertolucci's "To His Mother, Whose Name was Maria" has been published in the current issue of **Poetry**.

Three English faculty – Steve Wilson, John Blair, and Nelly Rosario – are mentioned in the **Chronicle of Higher Education**, in the story "Texas State-Baghdad Literary Studies Collaboration". The article recounts our colleagues' recent videoconferences with English professors in Iraq. MA Literature graduate Ann Friou was instrumental in gaining an audience for this story beyond the campus.

"Learning Outside Class: Outside of class?!? The brochure didn't say anything about this," an article by MFA poetry student Elizabeth Threadgill, will appear in the instructor's manual for **Academic Transformation: The Road to College Success** (Second Edition).

An article by Marilyn Olson (and co-authors Don Olson and Russell Doescher) is cited in the Arden Shakespeare edition of **Hamlet**, glossing a reference at 1.1.35 to "yond same star."

"Doggy Heaven," a poem by MFA poetry student Colin Pope, has been accepted by **Slate**.

MATC Alumni Sarah Wilson married Chad Allison June 12 at the Inn at Salado in Salado, Texas. Sarah was an MATC Graduate Assistant and now works for a children's book publishing company in Dallas. Chad is from Oklahoma and is a computer hardware salesman.

2005 MA Literature graduate Ryan Paul writes that he has successfully defended his dissertation

and is completing final revisions at the University of Arizona. This fall he begins a 2-year visiting appointment at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA.

August

MA Literature student Teri Holtzclaw's essay, **Trashing Paradise Lost: Applying Fecopoetics to Milton**, which she wrote for Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler's course last semester, has been accepted by the University of West Georgia's 25th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference, taking place November 2010.

2004 MFA Fiction graduate and former TA Suzanne Jamir has completed her PhD in English (creative writing, fiction) at Florida State University.

Two poems by recent MFA poetry graduate Aaron Deutsch, "Everyone Gets What He Deserves" and "Fortune-Cookie Triptych," have been accepted for the fall issue of **The Smoking Poet**. Aaron, MFA poetry student Stephanie Motz, and Nancy Wilson, will be presenting at the IWCA-NCPTW conference in Baltimore this November. Their panel will focus on the results of the embedded tutor pilot program Aaron instituted and Stephanie Motz co-created in Aaron's 1320 classroom last semester.

Debra Monroe's book **On the Outskirts of Normal** is in the August issue of **O: the Oprah Magazine**, in the "Recommended" list.

The following faculty and staff members from the English Department received Appreciation Letters from graduating students at the end of the spring semester: Leslie Allen, Libby Allison, Deb Balzhiser, Ryan Bayless, Susan Beebe, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, John Blair, Karen Bryson, Cyrus Cassells, Allan Chavkin, Alexis Cline, Robin Cohen, Paul Cohen, Pat Deduck-Evans, Nancy Grayson, Tom Grimes, Chad Hammett, Dickie Heaberlin, Michael Hennessy, Elvin Holt, Roger Jones, Caroline Jones, Edgar Laird, Priscilla Leder, Dan Lochman, Maria Lombardo, Patricia Margerison, Jaime Mejia, Debra Monroe, Susan Morrison, Keith Needham, Tim O'Brien, ZZ Packer, Teri Pantuso, Kathleen Peirce, Francine Pilkington, Cliff Ronan, Nelly Rosario, Teya Rosenberg, Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler, Vicki Smith, Jon Marc Smith, Susan Tilka, Miriam Williams, Nancy Wilson, Miles Wilson, Steve Wilson, Pinfan Zhu.

An article on Rebecca Bell-Metereau's campaign for the State Board of Education, "A Professor-Politician Stumps for Votes in Texas," appeared in the 16 July 2010 issue of **The Chronicle of Higher Education**, pages A11-A12.

Ryan Bayless' poem, "Where the River Bends," appeared in the latest issue of **Willows Wept Review**.

MARC student AndyBesa's proposal, "Cantinflas Sails: My Secret Life as a Writing Center Tutor," has been accepted for presentation at the International Writing Center Association's 2010 conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Tomas Morin has two poems forthcoming in the fall issue of the journal **Cerise Press**: "The Grave of the Left Hand" and "Pagliacci." His interview with Ai, published in the **AWP Writers' Chronicle** in 2003, has just been made publicly available on their website. On August 12, Tomas read at the summer issue launch party for the journal **American Short Fiction**, at The Mohawk in Austin.

MARC students Casie Mooreland, Cheyenne Riggs, and Shana Hamid (MARC Students), will present at the American Education Society of America (AESAs) conference in Denver. The panel, "Actions that Speak Louder Than Words: Listening to the Diverse Needs of Students in Public Education," was organized by Octavio Pimentel.

Recent MFA Fiction graduate and former TA Yvonne Guerrero will be teaching full-time this fall at the University of Houston-Downtown.

"The Right to Eat Decent Food," a short story by MFA fiction graduate Urania Fung, is available in the DAW anthology, **The Dragon and the Stars**, edited by Derwin Mak and Eric Choi. The anthology can be purchased online at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Borders. It is also available in some Barnes and Noble bookstores.