



Miscellany

Department of English
Texas State University

Fall 2009

September

MFA fiction graduate Urania Fung has secured a position teaching writing at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut.

MFA fiction student Marc Watkins' story, "The Lesson," will appear in the Spring 2010 issue of **Boulevard**.

An essay MA Literature student Tim Peoples wrote for June Hankins' class on African-American Women's Literature will be published in *Midwest Quarterly*: "Meditation and Artistry in **The Bluest Eye** by Toni Morrison and **Their Eyes Were Watching God** by Zora Neale Hurston."

Cyrus Cassells will play both Beowulf and Othello in **Medieval Macabre** at the Curtain Theater in Austin. On an inclement night, two men wager on the scariest moments in literature; included are scenes from **Hamlet**, **Macbeth**, **Titus Andronicus**, **Richard III**, and **Othello**. The play runs Sept. 25-26, Oct. 2-3, Oct. 9-10, and starts at 9PM. Student and senior tickets are \$9; regular tickets are \$13. The Curtain Theater is an outdoor replica of the Old Globe Theater and is located on Richard Garriott's estate beside Lake Austin.

MFA poetry student Jared Walls has three poems out or forthcoming: "Future Dust" is in the current issue of **Blue Mesa Review**, "Ghosts for Hands" is in a forthcoming issue of **Foundling Review**, and "In the Event John Ashbery Walks into this All-You-Can-Eat Buffet" is in a forthcoming issue of **Farrago's Wainscot**.

In October, Julia Drescher and Chris Martin will give two poetry readings in California: one in LA at the Poetic Research Bureau, and one in Berkeley as part of the reading series for **TRY** magazine. In April, the two will read from their work and present a talk on small press publishing as part of the reading series of the Creative Writing Program at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, CO.

MA graduate Eric Dodson has completed a PhD at the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana

and is currently teaching in the Classics Department at the University of Texas at Austin.

October

Octavio Pimentel and MARC student Blanca Loya have been invited to present their paper “RE-RE-RE-educating the Masses: Using Hip Hop in First Year Composition Courses” at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture/American Culture Conference, to be held next February in Albuquerque.

English major Carter Maddox has received a thesis grant from the University Honors Program to assist him in developing his honors thesis, tentatively titled “Atame! to Take!: Visioning Almodovar onto the American Stage.”

Rob Tally’s essay “Meta-Capital: Culture and Financial Derivatives” has been accepted for an upcoming special issue of **Cultural Logic: An Electronic Journal of Marxist Theory and Practice**; the special issue topic is “Culture and Crisis.” Rob’s essay on Loren Goldner’s **Herman Melville, Between Charlemagne and the Antemosaic Cosmic Man: Race, Class, and Bouregois Ideology in the American Renaissance Writer** has just been published in **Historical Materialism**.

Nancy Wilson served as Guest Coach for the Texas State football game on October 10.

MFA poetry student Laura Young presented “A Backward Glance and a Future Vision: The Construction of Circular Time in the Lyric Poetry of Louise Erdrich and Luci Tapahonso” at the Western Literature Association Conference in Spearfish, South Dakota.

Steve Wilson will present “Mothering Violence: Postcolonial Trauma in William Trevor’s **Felicia’s Journey**” at the “Mothering and Migration” conference to be held in Puerto Rico next February, sponsored by Canada’s Association for Research on Mothering.

Tom Grimes has sold world rights for his memoir about his writing life and his long friendship with Frank Conroy to Tin House Books. The American edition will be published in August 2010.

MFA poetry student Jared Wall’s poem, “The Computer’s Adolescence,” will be in a forthcoming issue of **Juked**.

The Writing Center held a celebration on October 20 to commemorate 25 years of providing tutoring as well as other services to Texas State students. Among those recognized for their contributions to the Writing Center over the years were Dean Ann Marie Ellis, Michael Hennessy, former Writing Center Director Priscilla Leder, and Writing Center founder Dan Lochman.

Chris Martin’s new poetry chapbook (a section of a long poem called “What is Worship?”) is now

available from Delete Press.

MA Literature student Brandy Alba will present “Blood Music: Morrison’s **Song of Solomon** and Alexie’s **Reservation Blues**” at the February 2010 meeting of the American Studies Association of Texas, to be held in San Angelo.

Two poems by MFA poetry student Colin Pope, “Eva Braun was Beautiful” and “That Laugh,” will appear in the **New York Quarterly**.

MA Literature students Kat Powell, Adriana Lechuga, and Liz Welch, along with MA Literature graduate Ashley Bourgeois, presented a panel last week at the Philadelphia meeting of the Society for the Study of American Women Writers. Ashley, who is now in the PhD program at the University of Kentucky, organized the panel, which focused on “Literary Last Works” by Kate Chopin, Edith Wharton, Willa Cather, and Nella Larsen. Priscilla Leder presented a paper on the 1933 Pulitzer Prize winning novelist Caroline Miller at the same conference.

Tom Grimes’ essay “The Prozac Variations” has been published in **Dedicated to the People of Darfur**. The anthology contains essays by Nadine Gordimer, Frank McCourt, Jane Smiley, and others, with an intro by George Saunders. All authors contributed essays for free, and all royalties will be donated to the Save Darfur Foundation.

Steve Wilson’s poem “Evening,” which appeared in the Spring 2009 issue of the **Beloit Poetry Journal**, has been nominated for inclusion in **Pushcart Prize: Best of the Year’s Small Presses**.

As part of St. Edward’s University’s Visiting Writers Series, Cyrus Cassells will present his poetry on November 12, at 7:30 PM.

November

Miriam Williams has accepted an invitation to join the editorial review board of the **Journal of Business and Technical Communication**, a top journal in the field of Technical Communication.

An in-depth interview with Jaime Mejia appears in *Conversations in Cultural Rhetoric and Composition Studies*. The editors of the book, Keith Gilyard and Victor Taylor, interviewed fourteen “leading figures” in composition and rhetoric. Other interviewees include Louise Weatherbee Phelps, Jack Selzer, Steven Mailloux, Michel Bérubé, and C. Jan Swearingen.

On November 4, Graeme Wend-Walker was interviewed by KTSW’s news program, “In the Public Interest,” speaking on the state of children’s literature. The interview aired Sunday Nov. 8 at 9 am, Wednesday Nov. 11 at 12 pm.

During the Writing Center's recent 25th-anniversary celebration, the Marketing team for Texas State made a video they have now posted on Texas State's YouTube website.

Four students from the English Department read papers at the recent International Research Conference for Graduate Students, held at Texas State: Parish Conkling (MA Literature), Chrishaun "Sique" Keller (MATC), Whitney Oldfather (MA Literature), and Justin Tucker (MARC). Graeme Wend-Walker served as moderator and judge for the panel.

Patsy Pohl was among those honored in late October by President Trauth at the university's annual retirement celebration.

Two poems by MFA poetry student Heather Robinson, "Wanderung" and "Snow-covered field with a harrow (After Van Gogh)," have been accepted for publication by **Bare Root Review**.

As part of this year's Common Experience events, poets John Blair, Ogaga Ifowodo, Roger Jones, Kathleen Peirce, Miles Wilson and Steve Wilson read their poetry to a packed house in the Honors Forum on November 4.

The MATC program celebrated its tenth anniversary with a luncheon on Saturday, November 7. Program director Libby Allison hosted more than forty faculty, MATC alumni, and special guests.

Tomas Morin has accepted an offer from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference to serve on their Admissions Board for 2010. As a board member Tomas will be responsible for reading and evaluating applications. Tomas' poem "A Model for the Priesthood," which won 3rd prize in **Narrative** magazine's poetry contest.

At the National Council of Teachers of English Conference held in Philadelphia this month, several faculty from the English Department took part in the panel, "Critical Readers, Savvy Researchers, and Proficient Writers: Students Well-Prepared for College-Level Research Assignments." Sue Beebe presented "Preparing Students for College-Level Research: Changing Expectations," Stephanie Noll presented "Incorporating a Multi-Genre Research Project on Tim O'Brien's **The Things They Carried** into the Secondary Classroom," and Nancy Wilson presented "Research Assignments in the Real World: The View from the Writing Center."

Olivia Burgess, who earned her BA in English at Texas State, and who is now pursuing her MA/PhD in English at Texas A&M, was recently named "Amateur Fitness Competitor of the Week" by BodyBuilding.com.

"Writing Gets Personal," an article on the services provided by the Writing Center, appeared in the November 12 **University Star**.

December

The following faculty were nominated by the Department for Presidential Excellence Awards: Kathleen Peirce and Nancy Wilson (teaching), Mark Busby and Rob Tally (scholarly / creative activity), and Libby Allison and Octavio Pimentel (service).

Michael Noll's story "Bullheads" will appear in the forthcoming issue of **American Short Fiction**. Michael read an excerpt from the story at the **ASF** reading that was held in Austin on December 4.

Ogaga Ifowodo has been awarded a grant by the University's Research Enhancement Program to support his work on a memoir.

A Writing Center Food Drive, organized by Writing Center tutor and MA Literature student Erin Jines, gathered \$35.00 and 80 pounds of food for the Hays County Food Bank Thanksgiving Donation Drive.

Night Train nominated MFA poetry student Colin Pope's poem "To the Fathers of the Girls in the Girls Gone Wild DVDs" for a Pushcart Prize.

John Blair has been awarded a \$4,000 fiction grant from the Isherwood Foundation, whose "main purpose is to contribute significantly to the flourishing of American letters by awarding grants to published novelists and to Isherwood scholars. These \$4,000 grants enable writers to devote time to writing projects and provide funds for research." In addition, his short story "Bombs," which was published in **Inkwell** earlier this year, was just nominated for a Pushcart Prize.