



Miscellany

Department of English
Texas State University

Spring 2013

January

MFA Poetry graduate Tim Kerlin is now working for Edmentum, an educational software design company in Dallas.

Rebecca Bell-Metereau published a review of **Ephemeral Media** by Paul Grainge in **Screening the Past**, Issue 35, December 2012.

The online journal **Juked** published “Our Bodies, Possessed by Light,” by MFA fiction student Ali Haider. It is available on their webpage.

Cyrus Cassells is a finalist for the position of Texas State Poet Laureate.

An article on **Home Front Girl**, edited by Susan Morrison from her mother’s diaries, appeared in the **Austin-American Statesman**. An article about the book, entitled “Touching Generations: Ink on paper still resonates across the decades,” appeared in the **Swarthmore College Bulletin** in November 2012.

MFA fiction student Graeme Mullen’s essay “Jokes For Birds” will appear in the next issue of the **Southern California Review**, out in early March.

Keith Needham reports that the Texas State Sigma Tau Delta Chapter, Omega Epsilon, will be honored at the 2013 convention in Portland, Oregon, for its 60-year tenure in the international honor society. In addition, three Texas State students have had papers accepted for the 2013 STD conference: Emily Rothbauer will present “Sanguis Vita Est: A Study of Blood’s Significations in Art”; Deanna Rodriguez will offer “Absurdity of Suicide: Existential Struggle in Vonnegut’s **Breakfast of Champions**”; and Elissa Myers, “How Women Eat in Edna O’Brien’s **The Country Girls**.”

February

MATC student Brandi Nicole Ford has accepted a position as an Advisory Writer at the Hewlett-Packard Company in Houston, Texas.

Miriam Williams and Octavio Pimentel's edited book collection, **Communicating Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in Technical Communication**, has been accepted for publication in Baywood Publishing's Technical Communication Series. Octavio's article, "An Invitation to a Too-Long Postponed Conversation: Race and Composition," has been accepted for publication in **Reflections: A Journal of Writing, Community Literacy, and Service Learning**.

MFA fiction graduate Owen Egerton's new/second novel **Everyone Says That at the End of the World** will be published this April by Counterpoint/Soft Skull Press. **The Book of Harold**, Owen's thesis manuscript, has been reissued in paperback by Soft Skull Press and optioned by Warner Brothers Television to be developed as a series.

An article on the Writing Center's new Tutor Corps, for veterans, appeared in the February 6 **University Star**.

A BookPeople interview and reading of **Home Front Girl**, the book edited by Susan Morrison and written by her mother, appeared February 7 on **Retirement TV**. Susan will also be talking on campus Tuesday Feb. 12, as part of Common Experience, in a Brown Bag Lecture to be held in ASBN 353 from 12-1 p.m.: "**Home Front Girl: Global War Before the Internet**."

MFA poetry student Denise Rodriguez's poem "Breath" was published in **a river and sound review**.

Paul Cohen's review-article on 'Pataphysics appears in the current **Fortnightly Review**.

Steve Wilson's poem "Coumeenole Beach," first published in **Beloit Poetry Journal**, appeared as the February 4 poem of the day on **Verse Daily**.

Rob Tally's co-edited (with Peter C. Kunze) special issue of **Studies in American Humor** on "Kurt Vonnegut and Humor" has been published. In addition to the co-editor's introduction, it also contains Rob's "Canon-Fodder: Vonnegut in the Library of America," a review-essay on the two Vonnegut-Library of America volumes.

MATC student Iola Hallock has been hired as a Technical Editor with Freescale Semiconductor in Austin, Texas.

Two poems by Steve Wilson, "Trying to Untie the Borders" and "Of Ahmed and His Barricades," will appear in the 2013 issue of **New American Writing**.

"Swift, Brutal Retaliation" - a novelette by MFA fiction student Meghan McCarron - has been

nominated for a Nebula Award by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

Graham Oliver, MARC student, has published “Ways In Which I Judge You Based on Your Iced Tea Preference” in **Punchnel’s**.

Senior Lecturers Caitlin McCrory and Jason Coates will serve as co-guest-editors of a special issue of **Southwestern American Literature** devoted to veterans. Jason and Caitlin proposed the special issue, drawing from their experiences running creative writing workshops for veterans over the past year.

Charles Ades Fishman discusses Cyrus Cassell’s poetry collection, **The Crossed-Out Swastika**, on his blog for **Writing About the Holocaust**.

Texas State, the English Department, and the Writing Center were well-represented at this year’s South Central Writing Center Association Conference held in Corpus Christi. Katherine Stingley presented “Culture and Commas: How Writing Centers Can Provide Cultural Literacy to Elementary Students.” Michelle Elliott, Jamie Estrada-Carpenter, Tyesha Stafford, and Nancy Wilson presented “Bridging the Gap: Addressing the Needs of Special Student Populations.” And Caitlin McCrory, Caroline Richardson, and Micah Wright presented “Bridging Tech Types: Multiple Forms of Technology Writing Centers Can Utilize.” In addition, Michelle Elliot was named Outstanding Tutor by the SWCWA.

March

Twister Marquiss’ flash-fiction piece “Kindling” is featured on the **Narrative Magazine** homepage as part of the Winter 2013 issue. It also appears on the **Narrative** app for iPhone and iPad.

Home Front Girl, written by Joan Wehlen Morrison and edited by Susan Morrison, received a positive review from Peter Smith on the **The Times** (UK) website.

Rob Tally’s latest book **Utopia in the Age of Globalization: Space, Representation, and the World System**, has just been released by Palgrave Macmillan.

MFA poetry graduates Michelle Detorie, Julia Drescher, and Chris Martin all gave well-received talks at the Berkeley Conference on Eco-poetics in February. In addition, Chris will read in the KinCity series, on Sunday March 17th from 3-5 pm, at the Twig Bookstore in San Antonio.

The MARC program was well represented at the UT-Austin Writing Center’s 20th Anniversary Symposium – “The Future of Writing Centers” – February 22-24, with presentations by Graham Oliver, Stephanie Gioia Stewart, Kristie Carol, Manny Pina, Lauren Elizabeth, Morgan Gross, and MARC Director Becky Jackson.

In Fall 2013, MFA poetry graduate and former TA Ben Engel will enter the PhD program at the University of Nevada, where he has been awarded a teaching assistantship and full tuition waiver.

English major Elissa Myers' essay, "A Magic Made of Stories: Fantastic Empowerment in the Works of E. Nesbit," has been selected as the winner of the Children's Literature Association's Carol Gay Award by a committee of three children's literature scholars. Elissa wrote the essay for an Honors Independent Study she took with Teya Rosenberg. Winning the Carol Gay Award means Elissa's paper is automatically accepted for the organization's national conference in Biloxi this coming June, and ChLA covers conference fees plus membership in ChLA for 2013. In a letter notifying Ms. Myers of the award, Association Vice-President Claudia Mills wrote that "All three judges note that your paper is impressive on a number of levels; all three of us ranked it first in this excellent pool of submissions. One judge writes that the argument about intertextuality in fantasy versus realistic texts is 'original, thought-provoking, and quite brilliant, especially for an undergraduate. The author of this paper is contributing some important ideas to the concept of child agency at the turn of the century.' Another judge agreed that the argument of the paper was 'fresh, illuminating, and brilliant.' The paper was also engagingly presented and a joy to read. The committee looks forward to hearing your paper at the conference and would encourage you to develop it further with the thought of possible publication."

Through a program coordinated by the Office of Retention Management and Planning, the following faculty and staff received letters of recognition from students graduating in December 2012 and attesting to the impact they had on the students' lives and university careers: Libby Allison, Deb Balzhiser, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, John Blair, Karen Bryson, Jason Coates, Paul Cohen, Robin Cohen, Doug Dorst, Nancy Grayson, Susan Hanson, Dickie Heaberlin, Elvin Holt, Rebecca Jackson, Caroline Jones, Lindy Kosmitis, Kitty Ledbetter, Jaime Mejia, Scott Mogull, Tomas Morin, Susan Morrison, Keith Needham, Stephanie Noll, Marilynn Olson, Kathleen Peirce, Dan Price, Nelly Rosario, Jon Marc Smith, Richard Smith, Susie Tilka, Nancy Wilson, Steve Wilson, Sarah Youree, and Pinfan Zhu.

Mark Busby's new novel, **Cedar Crossing**, with design by Barbara Whitehead, has now been published by TCU Press.

Texas State MFA fiction graduate A.J. Ortega, who is currently teaching in the department, has accepted a full-time Lecturer position at the University of Houston-Victoria. He will also be working with UHV's two publications, **Huizache** and the **American Book Review**; as well as contributing to Centro Victoria, the University's Center for Mexican American Literature and Culture, which aims to promote and celebrate the Mexican diaspora within the boundaries of the United States through literary arts education.

MATC alumna Denise Cisneros has accepted a technical writing position in Austin with Blackbaud, a company that creates financial software for non-profits. Their clients include Ronald McDonald House Charities, St. Jude, Relay for Life, and other organizations. Denise will be on the

user education team.

Amelia Gray's latest novel, **Threats**, was selected as a finalist for the 2013 PEN/Faulkner award, which is one of the country's most prestigious literary awards. Amelia graduated from the MFA fiction program in 2007.

Three poems from MFA poetry student John Fry's sequence "letters from a dark star" have been accepted for publication in **American Letters & Commentary**. In addition, his poem "debris field" has been accepted for publication by **Bellingham Review**.

MATC student Amarilis Castillo will present "Latinas: Mentoring the Next Generation of Technical Communicators" at the TXNAME (Texas National Association for Multicultural Education) Conference, to be held at Texas State University on April 19-20, 2013.

Roger Jones' poem "Juke Box" has been accepted by **Town Creek Poetry**.

Rob Tally's article "Bleeping Mark Twain? Censorship, **Huckleberry Finn**, and the Functions of Literature," on the controversial 2011 NewSouth edition, appears in the latest issue of **Teaching American Literature: A Journal of Theory and Practice**.

April

MFA Poetry student and Teaching Assistant Mary Selph has been awarded an assistantship for and accepted into the interdisciplinary PhD program in Media Art & Text at Virginia Commonwealth University.

James Knippen's poem "Moon" will appear in a forthcoming issue of **32 Poems**.

Enkay (Kay) Iguh has won a full tuition scholarship to the New York Writers Institute at Skidmore, where she will study with Bharati Mukherjee, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award. From some 400 applicants, Kay was one of 38 to win a full scholarship. Other winners came from Northwestern, Swarthmore, Columbia, Bennington, Harvard, Williams, Smith, Vanderbilt, Mr. Holyoke, Wisconsin, and Wellesley. In the fall Kay will enter the MFA program at New York University with a full scholarship.

Graeme Wend-Walker presented "Monkey Kings and Gorilla Suits: Fantasy as Religion/Religion as Fantasy" at the March International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, held in Orlando.

This year, the English Department's Omega Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, celebrating its 60th year, received special recognition for being one of the oldest chapters in the Society. In fact, only 10 chapters in the entire nation have been in the program longer than the Texas State chapter.

At this year's convention, three Texas State students presented papers: Elissa Myers ("How Women Eat in Edna O'Brien's **The Country Girls**"), Emily Rothbauer ("Sanguis Vita Est: A Study of Blood's Significations in Art"), and Deanna Rodriguez ("Absurdity of Suicide: Existential Struggle in Vonnegut's **Breakfast of Champions**").

English major and Sigma Tau Delta President Elliot Brandsma received a full scholarship and living expenses to attend the University of Iceland.

Suparno Banerjee recently presented "Bioethics, Bioviolence, and the Third World Bodies: Reading Two Science Fictions from India" at the International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL. His article "No Country for Women: Gender Dystopias in Manjula Padmanabhan's **Escape** and Manish Jha's **Matrubhoomi**" was published in the **Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies** in March 2013; in December 2012, "An Alien Nation: Postcoloniality and the Alienated Subject in Vandana Singh's Science Fiction" appeared in **Extrapolation**.

Congratulations to Sigma Tau Delta Public Relations Officer Emily Rothbauer, who has received a Fulbright Scholarship to assist English teachers in Germany.

MFA fiction graduate Kevin Grauke's story collection, **In the Shadows of Men**, has won the 2013 Texas Institute of Letters Steven Turner Award for the Best Work of First Fiction.

Student teaching supervisors Stephanie Noll, Lindy Kosmitis, Sarah Youree, and Keith Needham organized a panel of former student teachers currently working in the field to share their experiences with this semester's student teachers. Former students Wacey Tobler, Daniel Myers, Rachel Torres, Shawna Hall, and Blakely Lepski spoke on various topics, ranging from "What to Expect in Your First Year of Teaching" to "Creative Planning in the Face of High-Stakes Testing." The supervisors intend to organize more events of this kind in the upcoming semesters.

Ogaga Ifowodo's poem "Liberation Camp" has been accepted by **Crazyhorse**.

Stephanie Noll has been accepted into Texas State's "Creating and Teaching an Online Course Workshop," to be offered by ITS this May. Stephanie will use insights gained at the workshop to revise and retool an English 1310 online hybrid course.

A brief feature on the work of Myung Mi Kim, edited by Chris Martin, is now online at **Jacket2**.

MFA Fiction graduate Owen Egerton's second novel, **Everyone Says That at the End of the World**, has just been published by Soft Skull Press.

MATC graduate Susan Rauch's article, "The Accreditation of Hildegard von Bingen as Medieval Female Technical Writer," has been nominated for NCTE's Best Article in Historical Research in Scientific and Technical Communication prize.

MATC student Brandon McCartney has accepted an internship as Associate User Experience Analyst in the Enterprise Business Development team with Visa in Austin. Brandon will be working with usability testing and user research for web and mobile products for electronic payments.

“That Landscape Painting in Your Bathroom,” a poem by Colin Pope, has been accepted by **Harpur Palate**.

MATC student Zach Stout has accepted a position for the summer with USAA in San Antonio as a Media and Internet Content intern with the Mobile Channel team.

Two former graduate students received dissertation fellowships from SUNY-Buffalo for the upcoming academic year. MFA poetry graduate David Hadbawnik, nominated by the SUNY-Buffalo English Department, received the \$6,000 College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship. MA Literature graduate Tina Zigon received the \$5,000 Opler-Doubrava Fifth-Year Dissertation Fellowship, awarded by the English Department.

Limited edition prints from Chris Martin and Julia Drescher’s new press are now in the permanent collections of the Beinecke Library at Yale. The Beinecke also bought manuscript materials related to the first book from the press, essentially funding the edition.

MATC student Madeleine Williams has begun a six-month internship with Brenda Thompson Communications, a boutique PR firm in Austin.

Michael Noll delivered a presentation at the recent meeting of the Texas National Association for Multicultural Education. His presentation, “The Curriculum Isn’t Mine: Introducing Culturally Responsive Teaching Best Practices and Global Issues When Using Group-written or School-designed Lesson Plans,” relied on research and practices that he explored while attending last summer’s Multicultural Curriculum Transformation and Research Institute at Texas State University.

Narrative Magazine will publish an essay by MFA Poetry student Brandon Ricks. “Daniel Boxing School, Anchorage, Alaska,” was written as an assignment for Michael Noll’s ENG 3311 (Magazine Writing) class last fall.

Keith Needham received the 2013 Stephanie Goodbread Award for Outstanding Advising and Mentoring of Students. The award is presented by the Honors College.

MARC student Alyssa Crow has been accepted by the University of Utah Education, Culture, and Society Department and awarded a scholarship for full funding. While there she will be enrolled in the University Writing Program, where she will continue to work as a teaching assistant.

Kristin O’Donnell (MARC student) has been accepted into Texas State’s Developmental Education PhD Program.

Graduating MFA fiction student and TA Ali Haider will teach Secondary English at St. Stephen's School in Austin next fall.

Victoria Smith was chosen as Outstanding English Professor of the Year by members of Sigma Tau Delta.

Graduating senior and English major Elliot Brandsma joins English major Emily Rothbauer as the winner of a Fulbright scholarship for the coming academic year: Emily's will allow her to assist an English teacher in Germany, and Elliot's will support his research for a text on Icelandic literature while he studies in Iceland next year.

MATC alumni S. Chase Rogers has accepted a position as Technical Writer at Canrig Drilling Technology Ltd. in Houston, Texas.

Octavio Pimentel has been invited to serve as a 2nd stage reviewer for the 2014 meeting of the Conference on College Composition and Communication. According to conference Chair Alan Banks, "Stage 2 takes place at the NCTE headquarters in Urbana, IL and involves a small group of prominent people in the field as well as the nominees for Assistant Chair. Nominees typically participate in Stage 2 review so that they can learn the process and get an inside look at how the convention is put together, and also become acquainted with the NCTE/CCCC staff." In addition, Octavio has been chosen to participate in the 2014 Globalization Workshop here at Texas State.

Former English faculty member, MFA fiction graduate, and TA Angela Clark-Oates successfully defended her dissertation at Arizona State University on Friday, April 19th.

An interview with Susan Morrison, exploring her blog based upon **Home Front Girl**, her mother's manuscript that Susan edited and that was recently published by Chicago Review Press, appears at **JustAnotherWordPress Weblog**.

Laura Ellis-Lai recently presented "Portraiture Writing: A Research Methodology that Values First Generation FYC Students' Lived Experiences" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Las Vegas, Nevada. Laura will participate in four professional development opportunities on campus this summer: Preparing Students for Socially Responsible Global Citizenship (May 14-15, hosted by The Office of Academic Development and Assessment), The Multicultural Curriculum Transformation and Research Institute (May 20-24, hosted by the Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies), Creating and Teaching an Online Course Workshop (July 8-17, hosted by Instructional Technologies Support), and the Technology Integration Workshop (July 29 – August 9, also hosted by Instructional Technologies Support).

MATC student Monica De Los Santos has been selected to serve as a first-stage proposal reviewer for the 2014 CCCC Annual Convention. At the 2013 CCCC convention, she presented in the featured session, "Writing and Working for Change: An Agenda for a New Generation."

Alan Schaefer will present “Reframing a Portrait: Flann O’Brien’s Interrogation of the Artist in **Cruiskeen Lawn**” at the 9th annual Association of Franco-Irish Studies Conference, to be held in Rennes, France on May 24.

Colin Pope will be participating in Tupelo Press’ 30/30 Project for the month of May. Poets chosen to participate in the project write one poem per day for the 30 days of a month. The results are posted by Tupelo Press on the project website.

Nelly Rosario has been appointed a 2013-2014 Visiting Scholar in Comparative Media Studies/ Writing at MIT. During that visit, she will be completing research for her novel, participating in departmental activities, and attending seminars in the Graduate Program in Science Writing.

May

MATC student Jamie Peterson will present “Texas Legislature: Scaring the Women” at the 2013 Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference, to be held at Stanford University in late September. The presentation arises from Jamie’s research on political campaign language developed to make the Human Papillomavirus vaccination mandatory in Texas for young teen girls prior to their entering sixth grade.

MATC student Meg Seeger has accepted a summer internship as a junior technical writer for Drillinginfo, Inc., an oil and gas intelligence company in Austin.

MFA fiction graduate Ali Haider was just awarded Honorable Mention in the 2013 fiction contest sponsored by **Gulf Coast**, for his story “I’ll Take it Neat.”

Rebecca Bell-Metereau’s review of **Those Girls: Single Women in Sixties and Seventies Popular Culture**, by Katherine J. Lehman and published through the University Press of Kansas, 201 in the **Quarterly Review of Film and Video**.

Two poems by Andi Boyd appear in the Spring 2013 issue of **Narrative**.

Post No Ills has published a review of Cyrus Cassells’ **Crossed-Out Swastika**. The book was also a finalist for the Balcones Poetry Prize, sponsored by the Balcones Center for Creative Writing at Austin Community College.

Steve Wilson will present “An Irish Girl in the Contact Zone: ‘Only an Irish Girl’ and the Perils of New England Values for Women in the 19th Century” at the fall meeting of the New England American Studies Association, to be held at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, in Mashantucket, CT.

Rob Tally's latest book, **Kurt Vonnegut: Critical Insights** (Ipswich, MA: Salem Press), an edited collection in the Critical Insights series, has just been published.

Doug Dorst's forthcoming novel, **S.**, a collaboration with filmmaker J.J. Abrams, will be published on October 29th by Mulholland Books, an imprint of Little, Brown.

Mark Busby served on a National Endowment for the Humanities panel to select grantees for 2014. The meeting was in Washington, DC, on May 1.