



## *January*

Recent MFA fiction graduate and current lecturer Benjamin Reed was the guest editor for Vol. 7 of **Arcadia Magazine**, themed “The Post-Traumatic,” which has just been printed and is available for order from their website. The issue includes the first published short story by current MFA candidate Dan Szymczak. Also, Ben’s short story “Come to Bratislava!” will be published by **Big Fiction**, in their Winter/Spring 2014 issue. At the invitation of the Big Fiction editors, Ben will be reading from this work and others at a pair of offsite events affiliated with the Associated Writing Programs 2014 meeting in Seattle.

For the second year in a row, one of Debra Monroe’s essays, “Gray Area,” was cited as Notable in **Best American Essays**. Her essay “You’re in Trouble? Am I Right?” was reprinted in the **Atlantic Monthly** blog, Longreads.com. She published an essay on writing about sex from a woman’s point of view, “Why I Wrote About Sex,” in **The Nervous Breakdown**. She has an op-ed piece in the January 19, 2014 **New York Times**: “When Elite Parent Volunteers Dominate, Kids Lose”.

Eric Leake has been accepted to Dartmouth Summer Seminar for Composition Studies, taking place July 27 - Aug 8. This year’s topic is “Data-Driven Inquiry: Process, Methods, Results.”

MFA poetry graduate Trey Moody’s new book of poems, **Thought that Nature**, has been published by Sarabande Press. The book won the 2012 Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry.

Scott Mogull has accepted an invitation to serve on the advisory committee for the Business & Technical Communication program at Austin Community College.

2013 MFA fiction graduate Meghan McCarron has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Elizabeth George Foundation in support of her novel-in-progress, which was her Texas State thesis. The grant is designed to support emerging writers working on their first novel and provide funding for a full year of work.

MARC student Graham Oliver's review of Daniel Alarcón's novel **At Night We Walk in Circles** appears in the **Fiction Advocate**.

## *February*

This past fall, Winifred Hunton-Chan successfully completed the Faculty Learning Community for Adjunct Professors workshops, sponsored by the Office of Academic Development and Assessment launched a new initiative called "Faculty Learning Communities for Adjunct Professors." Among the topics examined were "delivering effective lectures" (September), "facilitating engaging class discussions" (October), and "planning a rigorous and relevant course that meets Texas State's syllabus requirements" (November).

Congratulations to TA Gabe Schnell and his growing family: welcome to baby Franny, who arrived January 27.

Katie Kapurch wrote a blog, "'She Loves You': The Beatles, Girl Culture, and **The Ed Sullivan Show**" for the University of Wisconsin's media and culture blog, **antenna**.

Some 25 poems from Steve Wilson's ongoing year-long poetry project will appear in **New American Writing**, **Newfound**, and **Borderlands**.

MATC student Amarilis Castillo has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Developmental Education at Texas State University.

A poem by Roger Jones appears in **Shot Glass Journal** (which specializes in short poems).

MARC student Graham Oliver's review of Minae Mizumura's **A True Novel** appeared in **The Rumpus**.

In February, Katie Kapurch presented "Girls Play (with) the Beatles: The Fab Four and Contemporary Female Youth" at an international Beatles conference held at Penn State's Altoona College.

MARC graduate student Graham Oliver's essay "Traveling the Zero: Digital and Homesick" appeared in **Full Stop**.

Twister Marquiss' story "Inclination of the Free Radical" has received an Honorable Mention in **Glimmer Train's** Fiction Open.

Among the College of Liberal Arts nominees for 2014 Presidential Excellence Awards are Mark

Busby and Doug Dorst, for Scholarly / Creative Activity; and Nancy Wilson, for Service.

William Jensen's story "Camino Real" will be published in the spring issue of **Stoneboat**.

Anne Winchell recently presented "Storytelling in Video Games: **Fable III** in the Classroom" at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association conference in Albuquerque, NM.

Several current and former MARC students presented papers at the Southwest Popular/American Cultural Association's 2014 Conference, held recently in Albuquerque. Megan Boeshart presented "What a Long, Strange Trip It's Been: Female Narratives of Gender Bending in **World of Warcraft**"; Alexis McGee presented "Hip Hop as Pedagogy"; Graham Oliver presented "You Can't Always Be Who You Want: Gender Roles in **The Big Chill**"; and alumna and Lecturer Lauren Schiely presented "America's Sweethearts: The Misrepresentation of Women in News."

## *March*

Stephanie Noll has been awarded a \$1000 grant from the Awesome Foundation to help fund her "Old Books for New Teachers" project. Stephanie's project will help new secondary teachers who are graduates of Texas State build classroom libraries.

Three faculty have been awarded developmental leaves during AY 2014-2015: Becky Jackson (Fall 2014), Vicki Smith (Fall 2014), and Kathleen Peirce (half-time leave, fall and spring 2015-2015); their proposals have been approved by the Faculty Senate and the Provost.

MFA poetry graduate Vanessa Couto Johnson's poem "trig(ger)" appears in the latest issue of \* **82 Review**.

English graduate Annie Schultz is currently teaching English to 5-14 year old children in a training school called New Star English. It's in Hong Qiao Town, China, near to Wenzhou in the Zhejiang province.

Rob Tally's **Kurt Vonnegut and the American Novel: A Postmodern Iconography** was reviewed in the **Los Angeles Review of Books**.

Whitney May, President of Sigma Tau Delta at Texas State, authored a paper entitled "Paradise Lost: An Ecocritically Oedipal Resolution," and it placed 2nd in the British/World Lit category at the 2014 Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society Conference in Savannah.

MATC student Brandon McCartney has accepted a position as Associate UX Analyst at Visa. Brandon was offered this position after working as Associate UX Analyst Intern this past summer.

John Fry, MFA poetry graduate, has been accepted into UT-Austin's PhD program in English. His

poem, “as Samuel in the temple,” has been accepted for publication by **Colorado Review**.

The following faculty will be recognized as “Alpha Chi Favorite Professors” at this spring’s induction ceremony for new student members of the Alpha Chi Honor Society: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Allan Chavkin, Joseph Falocco, Katherine Kapurch, Daniel Keltner, JoAnn LaBay, Debra Monroe, Susan Morrison, Keith Needham, Stephanie Noll, Marilynn Olson, Teya Rosenberg, Alan Schaefer, Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler, Graeme Wend-Walker, Nancy Wilson, and Steve Wilson.

MFA fiction student Anabel Graff’s story, “The Birds on Peach Street,” has been chosen by judge Michael Martone as second-place in the national contest sponsored by Writers at Work Writers Conference (a contest that helped launch many previously unknown writers, including Rick Bass, Pam Houston, and more). “The Birds on Peach Street” is also one of ten finalists for the Gertrude Stein Fiction Prize. Anabel’s novella, “Ghosts In God’s Lungs,” has been accepted for Barnes & Noble’s novella series.

At the March 28 Women and Gender Research Symposium, sponsored by Texas State’s Center for Multicultural & Gender Studies, Susan Morrison will receive the Women and Gender Studies Outstanding Faculty Scholar Award.

Becky Jackson and Eric Leake have been named Co-Chairs of the Master’s Degree Consortium of Writing Studies Specialists, a standing committee at the Conference on College Composition and Communication. This group represents the interests of departments and programs around the nation and around the world that offer master’s level training in rhetoric, composition, and writing studies.

MATC alumnus Chase Rogers writes software documentation in Houston for Canrig’s instrumentation and drilling recording software, RigWatch®.

Twister Marquiss has accepted an additional role as copy editor for the **Journal of Research on Women and Gender**, published by the Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies at Texas State. He is also co-editor of the **Journal of Texas Music History**, published by the Center for Texas Music History.

Michael Noll’s story, “A Funeral, Again,” was a finalist for the Lamar York Prize for Fiction from **The Chattahoochee Review** and will be published in the summer issue.

Teya Rosenberg, Marilynn Olson, Jonathan Nguyen (MFA poetry), and Ashley Robinson (MA Literature) took part in the Childhood in the Humanities Symposium at Texas A&M on March 1. Marilynn presented a paper entitled “Finding a Place for Clever Bill,” Teya’s was “Magischer Realismus/Magical Realism: The Intersection of Visual Art and Literary Art in Children’s Picture Books.”

The Texas Association of Museums announced that the Sam Shepard online exhibition has won



the Wilder Award for Merit. Twister Marquiss designed and developed the website last fall using content from co-developer Chad Hammett, who curated the physical exhibition. The website serves as a portal to the physical exhibition, especially now that the latter has ended.

## *April*

Texas State was represented at the 35th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts by Suparno Banerjee, Graeme Wend-Walker, and MA Literature student Brandy Eileen Rowney. Suparno's paper was "Ian McDonald's India: 'Extrapolation' or 'Exoticism'?"; Graeme presented "Disrupting Empires of the Human: Nnedi Okorafor's Zahrah as Cyborg"; and Brandy Eileen, "Empires of **Dune**."

MA Literature graduate Tim Peoples is now medical writing manager at Amgen.

MFA fiction student Katrina Goudey's "Of Curing Children and Preventing Catastrophe" will be published in the April 2014 issue of **Faultline**.

MA Literature graduate and Lecturer Amanda Mixon has been accepted into the Comparative Literature PhD Program at UC-Irvine, and was awarded two of the university's most prestigious fellowships: the Dean's Fellowship and the Provost's Fellowship, which will fund her first year, dissertation year, and summers in the program; along with the Diversity Recruitment Fellowship, which will fund her move to California. The years in-between will be funded by Teaching Assistantships in the Department of English and the Department of Gender & Sexuality Studies.

Rob Tally's brief essay "Until the Dragon Comes: Geocriticism and the Prospects of Comparative Literature" appears in the current issue of **Inquire: Journal of Comparative Literature**.

Texas State University and MARC student Cresta Bayley feature prominently in a recent **USA Today** piece on the Global Women's Wikipedia Write-In campaign.

John Blair's story "Biggest Snake in the Woods" won the 2014 **Tusculum Review** Fiction Prize. As winner, John will receive \$1000 and publication of his story.

With an audience of 110 guests, the Texas State Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta inducted 36 members on Friday, April 11. At the event, Susan Morrison was named Outstanding Professor of the Year.

English major Madeline Barnes has been accepted into Western Michigan University's Medieval Studies MA program. Ms. Barnes also received an assistantship position in WMU's Medieval Institute Publications Office.

Incoming MARC student Edward Garza has been selected as a recipient of the Texas State Graduate

Merit Fellowship. This prestigious fellowship is awarded only to graduate students of the highest quality and is awarded in recognition of impressive academic achievements and great potential for success as a graduate student.

First-Year Writing students Megan Blizinski and Channing Wan presented their original research from Laura Ellis-Lai's Honors College Writing course at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research, held recently in Lexington, Kentucky.

The American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) Southwest Chapter Conference will be held at Texas State University on June 21, 2014. Dr. Scott Mogull will present at the conference and is serving as conference host.

On April 7, several former student teachers participated in a panel organized by Stephanie Noll, Lindy Kosmitis, Sarah Youree, and Keith Needham. The panelists –Matt Rogers, Richard Franco, Emily Dumas, Nicole Beyteberie, and Haley Hobratschk – spoke to our current student teachers about their experiences as new teachers. Three of the panelists were given books and gift cards thanks to Stephanie's project, Old Books for New Teachers, which works to help recent Texas State graduates build their classroom libraries.

MFA fiction student Sarah Rafael Garcia has been awarded a Higher Education Scholarship by the Young Women's Alliance. She will receive \$3,000 next year with which she will provide Barrio Writers workshops to youth at the Travis County Juvenile Probation Dept.; participants will attend weekly reading and writing workshops in exchange for community service hours.

Tutor Micah Wright's Writing Center Tutor Corps program for veterans received a mention on the blogtalkradio show by Dr. Alexis Hart of Allegheny College. You can find the discussion of Tutor Corps around marker 29.35.

MATC alumnus Ky Stevens has been offered a position as a UX (User Experience) Research Assistant at Grainger.com, in Austin, Texas.

MATC alumna Denise Cisneros has received a Spotlight Award from Blackbaud, a company in Austin that develops software and services for a wide range of nonprofits throughout the country. Denise, who was promoted to Technical Writer II within her first year there, received the award for work on a major documentation project. In addition, MATC alumnus Bryce Dishongh was recently hired by Blackbaud.

Rob Tally's essay "Places Where the Stars Are Strange: Fantasy and Utopia in Tolkien's Middle-earth" appears in Tolkien in the **New Century: Essays in Honor of Tom Shippey** (McFarland).

Pinfan Zhu completed the Sloane-C Online Certificate Program, which is a rigorous online training program that prepares faculty to improve online teaching.

Nita Novianti, from Indonesia, who spent two years (2010-2012) at Texas State as a Fulbright scholar pursuing her MA in Literature at Texas State, wrote to share the arrival of her son Rauffal Nabhan Wahyu.

Congratulations to Doug Dorst for receiving the President's and Provost's recommendation for tenure and promotion to associate professor; and congratulations to Teya Rosenberg and Miriam Williams, both of whom have been recommended for promotion to full professor.

Kitty Ledbetter's essay, "Time and the Poetess: Violet Fane and Fin-de-Siècle Poetry in Periodicals," will appear in the Spring 2014 issue of **Victorian Poetry**.

At last week's Third Conference on the Sowell Collection at Texas Tech University, Susan Hanson presented "The Vicissitudes of Good Water," an essay about the San Marcos River, along with a slide show of her underwater photography.

MARC students Cresta Bayley and Jeffrey Downs have been awarded Summer Incentive Scholarships by the Graduate College.

Undergraduate English major Devin Baumann presented "A Study of Ethics and the Significance of Choice in the Mass Effect Trilogy" at the Popular Culture Association Annual Conference in Chicago on April 18th. She was mentored by Graeme Wend-Walker.

Miles Wilson's poem "The Dead" recently appeared in **The Georgia Review**. The film option for his short story, "On Tour with Max," from **Line of Fall**, has been renewed by an Academy Award-winning director. His novel **Fire Season** won the Stephen F. Austin University Press Fiction Prize in competition with 1,300 manuscripts and will be out next month.

Rob Tally's essay "Lost in Grand Central: Dystopia and Transgression in Neil Gaiman's **American Gods**" will appear in *Blast, Corrupt, Dismantle, Erase: Contemporary North American Dystopian Literature*, edited by Brett Josef Grubisic, Gisèle M. Baxter, and Tara Lee (Wilfrid Laurier Univ. Press).

Keith Needham was named Faculty Mentor of the Year by the Office of Retention Management.

Four poems by Ogaga Ifowodo appear in the current edition of *The African Writer*.

MATC graduate Chelsea Wunneburger has accepted a position as an ESL instructor for Madrid's Ministry of Education. She will live in Madrid from September 2014 to June 2015.

James Knippen presented "Poems that Inhabit the Tension between Music and Meaning" at the PCA/ACA national conference in Chicago. His poem "Raspberries" will appear in the upcoming issue of **Mid-American Review**.

MATC alumna Kim Jeske was recently promoted to Staff Technical Writer at National Instruments (NI). During her two years at NI, she has received numerous awards, including last year's Rookie of the Year Award.

On May 8, Roger Jones will read poems and participate in a panel discussion at Lone Star College in Conroe as part of their celebration of Walt Whitman.

MFA fiction graduate Vanessa Couto Johnson was a finalist for the Baltic Writing Residency, in Latvia.

## *May*

Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Laura Ellis-Lai and Steve Wilson have been invited to participate in the 2014-15 Faculty Learning Community for Globalization, sponsored by the Office of Faculty Development. The purposes of the FLC for Globalization are to support professors' efforts to infuse an international perspective into their teaching and/or scholarly and creative activities and to provide opportunities for faculty to network with colleagues who are also actively engaged in international issues. Rebecca will mentor Laura during the year; and Steve will mentor Bob Fischer, from the Department of Philosophy.

Texas State's Adjunct Faculty Committee and Faculty Senate have selected Susan Hanson to receive the Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award in the College of Liberal Arts. As part of the part-time faculty awards program, she will receive a special salary award of \$1,000 for this accomplishment, as well as a certificate of recognition presented by the Dean of Liberal Arts, Dr. Michael Hennessy, at the College of Liberal Arts Fall Convocation in August.

MFA poetry graduate Vanessa Couto Johnson will read her poetry at the Southwest Fulbright Symposium, to be held in San Antonio this July.

Susan Morrison will participate in the 2014 Multicultural Curriculum Transformation Institute sponsored by the Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies.

Congratulations to the Honors students and English Department mentors listed below. The students recently presented the results of their work at the 8th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference and Honors Forum, April 23-25: Emily Elizabeth Collins, **The Witnesses: Stories about Childhood** (Dr. Teya Rosenberg, supervisor); Matthew Martin, **Excisions of Order** (collection of poems) (Dr. John Blair, supervisor); Matthew Rochester, **Trends in Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Children's Fairy Tales** (Dr. Caroline Jones, supervisor); Stephanie Moore, **Eastern European Cinema vs. Hollywood: Bosnian War Films** (Dr. Kathleen McClancy, supervisor.); Jessica Loechel, **Listening to the Rain: A Contemporary Look at the Works of Alan Watts** (Ms. Lauren Ellis-Lai, supervisor).



MATC Student and GRA Eric Hall has accepted a position as a Research Engineering/Scientist Associate I at the University of Texas at Austin's Applied Research Laboratories. Eric will prepare and present technical documentation of software processes, training materials, and operational and test procedures for high frequency active sonar systems deployed on United States Navy submarines and ships.

MATC students Danielle McEwen and Joel Ritch received Summer Incentive Scholarships from the Graduate College.

Clare Blackstone Barker, who graduated with an MA in Literature in 2003, and who has been doing PhD coursework with Drs Anita Obermeier and Helen Damico at the University of New Mexico, is now transferring to Durham University in the UK to write her dissertation under Drs Elizabeth Archibald and Corinne Saunders. Her tentative title is "Hidden Assets: Mental Stability and Mental Illness in Medieval Visionaries, Mystics, and Saints."

On April 15, the English Department recognized its best students, including those who received Academic Achievement Awards; those who were admitted to the English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta; those who received Departmental scholarships; and those named Outstanding Senior in English and Outstanding Graduate Student in English.