



# *Miscellany*

Department of English  
Texas State University

*Fall 2011*

## *September*

Rebecca Bell-Metereau's "Stealth, Sexuality and Cult Status in *The Manchurian Candidate* and *Seconds*" appears in **A Little Solitaire: John Frankenheimer and American Film**, edited by Murray Pomerance and R. Barton Palmer and published by Rutgers University Press.

Tom Grimes's *Mentor: A Memoir* was a finalist for PEN USA's 2001 Best Work of Creative Nonfiction Award.

Octavio Pimentel's presentation, "\*Que te llevas de\* First-Year Writing?: Three Latino Students," has been accepted for the Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication to be held in St. Louis, MO, March 21-24, 2012.

Steve Wilson's new poetry collection, **Not as Done**, will be published next spring.

Dan Price recently completed the GOLD (Guidance for Online Learning Design) program, a semester-long consultation with selected faculty during which staff at Instructional Technologies Support guide them through the process for developing an online course.

Cyrus Cassells served this spring in Washington D.C. on two NEA translation panels; the sixteen \$12,500 grants were recently announced by the NEA.

MFA poetry student Denise Rodriguez has two poems, "Candelaria Massacre" and "More Than a Poem," in the online journal **Kweli**.

Elizabeth Threadgill will present "Negotiating Discourses with Students to Respond to College Texts" at the College Academic Support Programs (CASP) Conference in October. Elizabeth's chapter "Tutoring Literature: Negotiating a Literature-Response Discourse," to be published in the forthcoming College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) handbook for mentoring and tutoring, is the foundation for this presentation.

MFA poetry student James Knippen's poem "Window" has been published in the current issue of **Diagram**. Two more of his poems are forthcoming in the inaugural issue of **burntdistrict** in February.

The Writing Center has been awarded a new space on the ground floor of the Academic Support Building North, with renovations to begin once the University College move to the new PACE Center.

Pinfan Zhu's "Cultural Values Carried in International Business Homepages That Failed to Accommodate the Needs of Cultural Audiences" was published in the **Journal for Global Business Education**.

Rob Tally's book **Kurt Vonnegut and the American Novel: A Postmodern Iconography** is now out from Continuum.

An article on Nita Novianti, a Fulbright Scholar from Indonesia who is pursuing her MA in Literature at Texas State, appeared in the September 8 **University Star**.

Tom Grimes's story "Dog Heaven" has been translated into Russian and published in the September issue of **Esquire Russia**.

MA Literature student Amanda Meyer served as initial editor and script supervisor on the film **Hollow Oaks**. The film will be released to the American Film Market in L.A. on November 2nd and run thru Nov 9th.

MFA poetry student Faylita Hicks was featured in a September 15 **University Star** article.

Two poems by Roger Jones will appear in the online journal **Connotation Press**: "Flat Tires Fixed" and "Water Left Running All Night."

Becky Jackson's paper, "Negotiating Knowledge, Identity, Institution: Making the Transition from Graduate Student to High School and Community College Teaching," has been accepted for the 2012 Conference on College Composition and Communication, St. Louis, MO.

2010 MFA Poetry graduate and former IA and TA Molly Tustison has a new position with UnitedHealth in Minneapolis. Molly's job responsibilities include writing training materials and training trainers.

Laura Clemens, MARC student, will present "We Get By With a Little Help From Our Friends: The Role of 'Community' in Graduate Students' Writing Development" at the 2012 Conference on College Composition and Communication.

Tomas Morin's poem, "Flea Circus," has been accepted for publication by **Slate**; and another poem, "Microscopy," has been accepted for publication by the on-line journal **The Collagist**.

At the 7th Annual Texas State SASP Conference, Keri Fitzgerald, M.A. Literature student, presented "I'm Not Waving, I'm Drowning"; and Lisa Tomecek-Bias, MARC graduate, presented "Facilitating the Second Language Writer: A Tutoring Toolkit."

Miriam Williams' "Game Theory and Technical Communication: Interpreting the Texas Two-Step Caucus Tier through Harsanyi Transformation" has been accepted for publication in the **Journal of Technical Writing and Communication**.

MATC alumna Krystle Gonzalez-Danuz has been hired by ArthroCare, a medical equipment company in Austin, as an International Regulatory Affairs Specialist.

MATC student Susan Rauch's article, "The Accreditation of Hildegard von Bingen as Medieval Female Technical Writer," has been accepted for publication in the **Journal of Technical Writing and Communication**.

Pinfan Zhu will present "Impact of Cultural Values on the Usability of International Websites" at the November meeting of the International Organization of Social Sciences and Behavioral Research, taking place in Las Vegas.

Marilynn Olson's work on the research team exploring the creation of Mary Shelley's **Frankenstein** – a project featured in a recent issue of **Sky & Telescope** – was reported on the Texas State website.

An article on the Writing Center, "Bobcats offered chance to better writing skills through free tutoring," appeared on the September 23 Texas State University Blog.

Kendall Klym, 2003 MFA Creative Writing (Fiction) graduate and former TA, and 2010 PhD in English (University of Wales, Aberystwyth), is teaching this fall as a visiting assistant professor at Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

## ***October***

Pinfan Zhu's "Application of Robert Gagne's Nine Principle Instructions to the Teaching of Web Localization" has been nominated for the NCTE/CCCC Best Article in Technical and Scientific Communication Award.

Tomas Morin's poem "Red Herring," which is in the current issue of **New England Review**, was featured on **Poetry Daily** Oct. 2nd. Tomas served as a guest coach for the Volleyball team on October 1, visiting with the team and attending their match vs. McNeese State.

Rob Tally's new book, **Geocritical Explorations: Space, Place, and Mapping in Literary and Cultural Studies**, has just been published by Palgrave Macmillan.

MA Literature students Taylor Cortesi, Mitchell Mazurek and Carter Maddox, as well as MFA poetry student Scot Briggs, will comprise the panel "Sexing the Word: Portrayals of the Self and Sexuality in American Literature" at the November meeting of the American Studies Association of Texas, to be held in Kerrville. The students' presentations have developed out of discussions in Steve Wilson's 5324 course this semester.

The 2010 film **Dance with the One**, on which Jon Marc Smith served as so-writer, is now available "on demand" from Time Warner Cable. The film will also have showings around Texas as part of the Texas Independent Film Network series.

Allan Chavkin's **Saul Bellow** will be published in 2012 by Salem Press as part of the "Critical Insights" series. In addition, "A Bowen Family Systems Reading of **Tracks**," co-authored with Nancy Feyl Chavin, appears in **Louise Erdrich: Tracks, The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No horse, The Plague of Doves**, published this year by Continuum (London).

In mid-October, Kendall Kelly successfully defended her dissertation, "Miscommunication, Genre, and Active Communication Strategies in the Indian Call Center," at Texas Tech University, where she is completing a PhD in Technical Communication and Rhetoric.

Becky Jackson's article (co-authored with Jackie McKinney, Ball State University) "Beyond Tutoring: Mapping the Invisible Landscape of Writing Center Work" has been accepted for the fall 2011 issue of **Praxis: A Writing Center Journal**.

Debra Monroe has an essay, "My Taciturn Valentine," in the Fall 2011 issue of **The Southern Review**; an essay, "The Sex Trade in Northwest Wisconsin," in **The Morning News**; a book review of Michael Ondaatje's new novel in **Salon**; and an interview about her five books and the craft of both fiction and nonfiction in the Fall 2011 issue of **Glimmer Train**. She also has an essay, "Seasonal Dread," forthcoming in **Wake: A Journal of Great Lakes Thought & Culture**.

An article on the San Marcos showing of the film *Dance with the One*, co-written by Jon Marc Smith, appeared in the October 13 **University Star**.

The October 18 **University Star** reported on former English major Reagan Pugh's work teaching English at the Todd County High School in Mission, South Dakota through the Teach for America program.

Colin Pope's poem "Mosquito Hawk" has been accepted at **Grist: A Journal for Writers**.

English major Gabriella Corales has been selected as a finalist for a prestigious Woodrow Wilson-



Rockefeller Brothers Fund Fellowship for Aspiring Teachers of Color, which provides \$30,000 for students to pursue graduate degrees toward teaching in public schools. Ms. Corales will travel to Washington, DC in November for the next stage of the selection process.

## *November*

Libby Allison has been named an Alpha Chi “Favorite Professor” for 2011.

Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler’s article, “The First ‘Royal’: Charles I as Celebrity,” appears in the October 2011 issue of the **PMLA**.

Nancy Wilson’s “Bias in the Writing Center: Tutor Perceptions of African American Language” appears in **Writing Centers and the New Racism: A Call for Sustainable Dialogue and Change**, just out from Utah State University Press.

Two previously published poems by Roger Jones – “Panhandle” and “Family History” – will be included in a special Walt McDonald tribute issue of **San Pedro River Review**.

Rob Tally served as guest coach for the Texas State football at their November 5 game against Prairie View A&M.

Ryan Bayless’ article, “The Breakdown of the Pathetic Fallacy in Emily Dickinson’s ‘A Bird came down the Walk,’” has been accepted for publication in **The Explicator**.

In October 2011, MFA poetry student Faylita Hicks and her Poetry Slam, Inc. staff launched the **Slam National Newsletter** as an online publication that features news about competitions and various other contest information; and also contains writing prompts and workshops as well as interviews with new and emerging poets, a mini poetry magazine titled **The Written Riot**, book and album reviews and more. Ms. Hicks serves as Editor-in-Chief.

At the November 16 Celebration of International Education to be held on campus, Steve Wilson will receive the Faculty Award for Outstanding Achievement in International Education from Texas State members of NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Steve presented “Mythic Sales Figures: Jack Kerouac’s **The Subterraneans** and the Marketplace” at the meeting of the Northeast American Studies Association, held in Plymouth, MA November 4-5. His poem “The Hag of Beara” will appear in **Improbable Worlds: An Anthology of Texas and Louisiana Poets**, out next month from Mutabilis Press.

MFA poet John Fry, with Katherine Factor and John Schmidt, interviewed Kazim Ali about his book **Bright Felon** for a reader’s companion compiled by Wesleyan University Press.

KatzSmith Productions (David Katzenberg and Seth Grahame-Smith) has optioned the film rights to Doug Dorst's novel **Alive in Necropolis**.

Ryan Bayless has accepted a full-time position as Instructor of English at Texas A&M University-Central Texas, where he will teach face-to-face courses in Creative Writing and American Literature in addition to the Fine Arts online courses he currently teaches there.

Rob Tally's review of Charles Shields' **And So It Goes: Kurt Vonnegut, A Life** (the first scholarly biography of KV) appears in the **Washington Independent Review of Books**.

MFA fiction student Jaime Netzer's story "How to Spend A Cul-de-Sac Summer" appears in the current issue of **Twelve Stories**.

Chris Margrave, lecturer and recent MFA fiction graduate, will present "Thinking Inside the Box: Michael Ondaatje's Cubist Approach to History" at the IC5 Global Conference on Interculturalism, Meaning and Identity, in Prague, Czech Republic, in March 2012.

An article on Dr. Olivia Burgess' scholarship appears on the website of the Missouri University of Science and Technology. Dr. Burgess received her undergraduate degree in English from Texas State University.

The following members of the English Department received letters from students graduating in August 2011 as part of the University's retention program that recognizes the influence of faculty and staff on student success at Texas State: Libby Allison, Deb Balzhiser, Sue Beebe, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, John Blair, Karen Bryson, Paul Cohen, Robin Cohen, Nancy Grayson, June Hankins, Susan Hanson, Michael Hennessy, Elvin Holt, Dale Hudson, Caroline Jones, Kendall Kelly, Edgar Laird, Kathryn Ledbetter, Dan Lochman, Jaime Mejia, Debra Monroe, Susan Morrison, Keith Needham, Stephanie Noll, Marilynn Olson, Kathleen Peirce, Nelly Rosario, Teya Rosenberg, Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler, Jon Marc Smith, Victoria Smith, Rob Tally, Susie Tilka, Graeme Wend-Walker, Miriam Williams, Nancy Wilson, Steve Wilson, David Yeats, and Pinfan Zhu.

## *December*

The English Department nominated the following faculty for Presidential Awards for Excellence: in teaching – Debra Monroe and Sue Beebe; in scholarly / creative activity – Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler and Rob Tally; in service – Miriam Williams and Chad Hammett.

Miriam Williams has signed a book contract with Pearson Allyn & Bacon for **Workplace Communication: Introducing Business, Professional, and Technical Communication**. The textbook will be written for students enrolled in upper-level workplace writing courses.

Jared Walls moonlights as a stand-up comic, recently performing for the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund's "Drag Out Funny," described in the **University Star** as a "drag and comedy show hosted to raise scholarship assistance for Texas State LGBTQ students".

MFA fiction student Joe Vastano won first place in the "Family Matters" contest sponsored by **Glimmer Train**. His story, "Twinning," will be published in the journal early in 2012.

A favorable review of Joe Falocco's 2010 book **Reimagining Shakespeare's Playhouse: Early Modern Staging Conventions** in the Twentieth Century appears in the latest issue of the **Shakespeare Bulletin**.

Rebecca Bell-Metereau's review of **Haunted Images: Film, Ethics, Testimony and the Holocaust** appears in the September 2011 issue of **Quarterly Review of Film and Video**.

Sue Beebe and Nancy Wilson presented at the November meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English, held in Chicago.

MATC student Kim Jeske has been chosen for an internship with the College for All Texans Foundation of the Texas Higher Education Board. Kim will be working on the Foundation's website, social media, and various technological needs.

Libby Allison reports that Education Technology Support Staffer Whitten Smart has written a letter of appreciation for Dr. David Yeats' graduate User Experience Research Methods course. Smart says it was a successful collaboration between the TRACS Team and the class and that the reports, video clips, and suggestions the students made from their usability tests of the TRACS Assessment and Gradebook 2 tools will help shape these tools in the future. Smart adds, "I also plan to share these findings with the Sakai Community at large to further help in their endeavors in making Sakai tools more usable and user-friendly."

The film **Dance With the One**, on which Jon Marc Smith served as co-writer, is now available on Hulu.

At the November 30 tree planting ceremony that marked Texas State's designation as the Arbor Day Foundation's newest "Tree Campus USA," the English Department was represented by Mike Hennessy, Dan Lochman, and Susan Hanson. Together they planted a lovely 9-10 ft. live oak near the rear entrance to the Speck Street Parking Garage. The tree was officially christened "Joyce." In all, 71 native trees, donated by Toyota through the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus USA program, were planted behind the Speck Street Garage. Texas State is only the sixth Texas university to be designated a "Tree Campus USA."

Rob Tally has been elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Poe Studies Association.

Keith Needham reports that Sigma Tau Delta inducted 32 new members November 18. Guest

speaker at the ceremony was Susan Morrison.

MFA poetry student John Andrews' poem "driving to Memphis in a storm" will appear next spring in the **Columbia Poetry Review**.