



Miscellany

Department of English
Texas State University

Spring 2012

January

MA Literature graduate Tina Zigon, who is now pursuing her PhD at the University of Buffalo, published “No Ambiguity Allowed: How Medical Treatment of Differently-Sexed Bodies Reinforces the Sexual Binary” in the Slovenian **Journal for Critique of Science**, in a special issue on gender and biopolitics.

MFA fiction graduate Amelia Gray is among three young authors featured in **The Los Angeles Times**’ article on “Faces to Watch in 2012: Books”.

An essay written by Thomas Gonzalez, English and Philosophy double major, for Octavio Pimentel’s recent ENG 3311 course on “Hip-Hop Literacy,” has been accepted for presentation at the February SWTX / PCA conference in Albuquerque.

Steve Wilson’s “Poem for Allen Ginsberg” will appear in **The Beatest State in the Union: an Anthology of Beat Texas Writers**, forthcoming from the University of Texas Press.

MARC student Morgan Gross will present “A Critical Discourse Analysis of Moulin Rouge” at the March Southwest Council of Latin American Studies Conference, to be held in Miami. The essay was written for Octavio Pimentel’s ENG 5300 course.

Nancy Wilson reports that the Writing Center had a very busy fall semester:

1:1 tutoring:

San Marcos: 4,934 half-hour appointments

RRHEC: 347 half-hour appointments

Online: 107 half-hour appointments

TOTAL: 5,388

Computer Users: 6,275

Walk-in Clients (San Marcos): 306

Traveling Teacher Engagements (nearly all taught by MA Literature student and Writing

Center Coordinator Keri Fitzgerald): 75 (includes visits to ENG1310/1320, 3319, 3351, 3303, 3301, 3385, 3343; History 1320, 3373, History 3368; US1100; TSIE Writing 4500; and Texas Geography)

Class Tours: 89

Gabriella Corales, a Texas State major in English and Communication, has been named one of only 25 Woodrow Wilson-Rockefeller Fund Fellows for 2012. This prestigious national award supports students of color dedicated to teaching and creating opportunities for young students, and includes a \$30,000 stipend for graduate study and teaching opportunities.

Kitty Ledbetter's book, **Victorian Needlework**, has been published by ABC-Clio/Praeger Press.

Rob Tally's essay "This Space that Gnaws and Claws at Us: Foucault, Cartographics, and Geocriticism" appears in **Epistemocritique: Litterature et Savoirs**, in a special issue on geocriticism. In addition, Rob gave two talks at the MLA in Seattle: "Spirits of Place: Hawthorne, Poe, and the Gothic Genius Loci" (for a joint panel of the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society and the Poe Studies Association) and "BLEEP: Huck Finn, Censorship, and the Institution of Literature" (for a panel of the Mark Twain Circle of America).

Susan Morrison has signed a contract with Chicago Review Press, who will publish as a Young Adult History book her mother's memoir, which Susan edited. It is coming out this fall and is entitled **Holding Time: The Diary of an American Teenager in World War II**.

Tomas Morin's poetry manuscript **A Larger Country** has been chosen for the APR/Honickman First Book Prize, which is administered by the **American Poetry Review**, with distribution through Copper Canyon Press. Four poems and an interview are forthcoming in February at **Connotation Press: An On-line Artifact**: "Mule Day," "Sunday School, Ebola Zaire," "Weekend Home," and "Race Day"; and his poem "First Day at the Shoe Factory" has been accepted by **The Texas Observer**. An interview with Tomas appeared in Sri Lanka's **The Nation**; that same interview was expanded, updated and published at the **Huffington Post** on 1/11/12.

Joe Falocco and Nancy Wilson received Library Research Grants.

Konundrum Engine Literary Review has accepted MFA poetry student John Fry's poems "homeward," "daybreak, how do you explain it," and "torn from a book of what happened."

"Plastic and Stone," by MFA fiction student Michael Rosenbaum, has been accepted by **The Blue Mesa Review**.

Nancy Wilson reports that The Writing Center's Workshop Power Points have been linked to the Facebook page of the **Writing Lab Newsletter** and Twitter. Editor Muriel Harris explained, "I really like the **WLN** Facebook page and Twitter account to help publicize all the great stuff writing centers are doing."

Pinfan Zhu's article "Linking Contextual Factors with Rhetorical Pattern Shift," co-authored with Junhua Wang, has been nominated by the **Journal of Technical Writing and Communication** as the Best Article for Reporting Quantitative or Qualitative Research in 2012. His presentation "Using Globalization as a Shaping Tool to Reshape the Curriculum of Technical Communication Program" has been accepted by the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing.

At the upcoming regional conference of the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies-Tejas, to be held at Texas State, Morgan Gross' (MARC student) will present "Same Dance Different Song: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Moulin Rouge's Portrayal of Ethnic Minorities, Women, and the Poor/Working Class," Octavio Pimentel, will present "Latino Looks: Racist Mexican Representation in Television Commercials"; and Lauren Schieley (MARC student), "Otherization in the Rhetoric of the American Composition Classroom."

"Swift, Brutal Retaliation," a story by MFA fiction student Meghan McCarron, was published at **Tor.com**.

Justin Whitney (MARC student) will present "The 2010 Citizens Clean Elections Voter Education Guide: Constructing the "Illegal Immigrant" in the Arizona Voter" at the Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Conference in Albuquerque, NM, in early February.

Octavio Pimentel recently spoke at Lehman High School (Kyle, TX). Lehman High School's New Arrival Center and ESOL students "were honored with five guest speakers from Texas State University on Thursday afternoon. Motivational and emotional stories of commitment and determination in learning a second language influenced students during the session".

Steve Wilson's poem "The Beekeeper" was selected for **Whitman Cooks**, a poetry collection that will raise funds for the Walt Whitman Birthplace State Historic Site in West Hills, NY. The book pairs poems with recipes that resonate with the texts; Steve has paired his poem with a recipe Nancy Wilson received from her mother Hazel Effinger some years ago.

Poems by MFA poetry student Kelsey Shipman will soon appear in a number of journals: "Vision of My Father" and "The Morning After" will be published in the Spring 2012 issue of **The Diverse Arts Project Journal**, "Genealogy" will be published in the March 2012 issue of **Specter Magazine**, and "Small Truth" was published in the August 2011 issue of *Four and Twenty Journal*. In addition, her poem "Roadkill" appears in the **2012 Texas Poetry Calendar**.

February

MATC Alumnus Ronny Roland has accepted a technical writing position with Telvent, a global software company in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

MATC and MA Literature Student Susan Rauch has been accepted into the doctoral program in Technical Communication and Rhetoric at Texas Tech for fall 2012. She has also been awarded a Teaching Assistantship.

MATC Alumnus and former graduate assistant Jael Perales has been hired as an Administrative II in the Round Rock Center's Director's Suite. Jael said he applied for the position because it is similar to his MATC assistantship, which he so enjoyed.

MA Literature graduate Melissa Mercado has published her MA thesis, **Puerto Rican Culture and Identity**, with Lambert Academic Publishing. Jaime Mejia was her thesis director.

MFA poetry student James Knippen will have two poems, "Attic" and a selection from "Dinner Table (Conversations at the)," published in **Colorado Review**. Two additional sections of "Dinner Table" appear in the current issue of **interruption**.

At the Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference, held in Albuquerque February 8-11, Alan Schaefer presented "Untangling the Triangle in Joyce and Bergman."

2000 MFA fiction graduate Larry Herold's first play, **The Sports Page**, has opened to a rave review at Stage West in Dallas.

2001 MFA fiction graduate Diana Lopez has sold her second novel, **Choke**, to Scholastic Books, which will release the book in July 2012. Her third novel, **500 Colors of Pink**, has been sold to Little Brown.

Pinfan Zhu's "Translation Problems in International Business and Their Counter-Measures" has been accepted by the **Journal of Global Business Education**.

Through a program sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs, the following faculty and staff were recognized by students graduating in December 2011: Suparno Banerjee, Ryan Bayless, Sue Beebe, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, John Blair, Karen Bryson, Allan Chavkin, Alexis Cline, Jason Coates, Paul Cohen, Robin Cohen, John Dean, Joseph Falocco, Chad Hammett, Susan Hanson, Dickie Heaberlin, Cathleen Hickey, Rebecca Jackson, Caroline Jones, Dan Lochman, Christopher Margrave, Jaime Mejia, Susan Morrison, Keith Needham, Michael Noll, Agustin Ortega, Kathleen Peirce, Francine Pilkington, Octavio Pimentel, Patsy Pohl, Nelly Rosario, Teya Rosenberg, Laura Sims, Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler, Jon Marc Smith, Victoria Smith, Rob Tally, Elizabeth Threadgill, Susan Tilka, Jared Walls, Graeme Wend-Walker, Miles Wilson, Nancy Wilson, Steve Wilson, and Anne Winchell.

MARC graduate Casie Moreland has been accepted into the PhD program in Rhetoric and Composition at Arizona State University.

Susan Hanson's essay "The Bay of Broken Things': The Experience of Loss in the Work of Loren Eiseley" is included in **Artifacts and Illuminations: Critical Essays on Loren Eiseley**, published by the University of Nebraska Press. The book, which is the first full-length collection of critical essays on the writing of Eiseley, will be released April 1.

Kendall Kelly presented "Capitalism as Savior? Representations of Indian Call Centers in Popular Culture" at the Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference, held in Albuquerque February 8-11.

MFA poetry graduates and current lecturers Jason Coates and Caitlin McCrory have developed a **writing workshop for Texas State veterans**, set to begin on March 19, 2012. Jason and Caitlin explain that their workshops have two primary goals: 1) To assist veterans in utilizing their expanded writing & communication skills for their benefit with accessing academic & career opportunities, and 2) to help Texas State veterans realize the personal and literary benefit of creatively communicating their experiences from both their military careers and their service completed abroad. The workshop is free and open to the first 15 people who register. The organizers ask that those who register plan to attend all 7 sessions. Reading materials will be provided by the instructors. Those who are interested should contact Caitlin or Jason no later than March 9, 2012.

Two poems by Steve Wilson appear in **Classifieds: An Anthology of Prose Poems**, just published by Equinox Publishing.

Octavio Pimentel's "Mexican Media Stereotypes: The Reproduction of Racist Discourses" has been accepted for the Education and Community Leadership Conference to be held in San Marcos, Texas.

March

MATC student Elizabeth Vahalik has been hired as an Apple College Program Manager Rotation Advisor; she will be responsible for a team of 15-20 technical support advisors in the college program. This position is part of Apple's At-Home Advisor College Program.

Susan Morrison has been named an "Honorary Professor of International Studies" by the Texas State Center for International Studies.

Justin Whitney, MARC student, has been accepted into the PhD program in Rhetoric and Composition at Arizona State University.

"Empathic Tutoring in the Third Space," by Nancy Wilson and MA Literature student Keri Fitzgerald (who also serves as the Writing Center Coordinator), has been accepted by the **Writing**

Lab Newsletter.

2nd year MFA fiction student Monet Moutrie has been hired as a full-time Writer/Editor for the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Becky Jackson has been asked to serve on the Executive Board of the Master's Degree Consortium of Writing Studies Specialists, which meets annually at the Conference on College Composition and Communication.

English major Gabriella Corales has been accepted into Stanford University's Teacher Education Program (STEP), in the Teaching of English, a program leading to a Master of Arts in Education and a preliminary California teaching credential. In support of her studies, Ms. Corales received a School of Education tuition fellowship to be distributed evenly over her four quarters in STEP.

An article on the **Writing Center's Words Work Literacy Journal** appeared in the March 20 **San Marcos Daily Record**.

Justin Whitney (MARC student) has been accepted to the Department of Education, Culture and Society and the University of Utah Writing Program, with full funding provided by a teaching assistantship.

MFA fiction student Benjamin Reed's short story "The Weigh-In" is featured in the Spring/Summer issue of **West Branch**.

English major and alumna Tyrica Terry will join the Ph.D. Program in Critical and Cultural Studies (through the Department of English) at the University of Pittsburgh this fall. She has received full funding for all five years; after the first year, this funding comes in the form of teaching fellowships, and for the first year, she has been awarded the "K. Leroy Irvis Fellowship."

Alumnus and English major James Harrington, now based in the Pacific Northwest, has been accepted into the Master of Environmental Studies program at Evergreen State College.

Roger Jones has had two poems accepted by **Louisiana Literature**.

M.A. in Literature student Erin McClurg will be presenting a paper at the Bram Stoker Centenary Conference, to be held April 12-14 at the University of Hull in North Yorkshire, UK.

Courtney Werner, MARC graduate (2008), has completed her PhD in Rhetoric and Composition at Kent State University and has been hired as an Assistant Professor of English at Hope College in Michigan.

April

MARC graduate Casie Moreland has been accepted into the PhD program in Rhetoric and Composition and awarded a TA position at Arizona State University.

A story about MA Literature student Nita Novianti's March 27 presentation on "Veiling and Women's Rights in Islam: Look at Me, Not My Veil," which was sponsored by the Texas State Muslim Student Association, appeared in the March 28 **University Star**.

Cheyenne Mathews, an MA Literature graduate, has accepted an offer, with a teaching assistantship, from the Ph.D. program at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Rob Tally will be the featured speaker at "Re-Conceptualizing Cartography: Space-Time Compression and Narrative Mapping," the University of South Florida Graduate Conference, to be held in Tampa from April 13-14.

A Texas State University group took part in a panel entitled "Gateway Paths for Negotiating the Middle: When Opposing Sides Clash, Introducing Rhetorical Strategies beyond Logos" at the 2012 Conference on College Composition and Communication in St. Louis. Sarah Olivas, MARC student, presented "'The Innocence Is the Crime': Finding What Lies between Academic Spaces and Religious Fundamentalism." Yazmin Lazcano-Pry, former MARC student and now PhD student at Arizona State, read "Contesting Myths: Mexican Immigrant Ethos and the Shaping of American Identity." Jana Fornario, MFA fiction student, presented "Finding the Center: Mediating the Distance between High School and College for Texas Mexican Students." Jaime Armin Mejía, presenter and respondent, read "The Importance of Chican@ Rhetorical Appeals in American Rhetorical Situations."

MFA poetry student John Fry has two poems forthcoming in **The Dirty Napkin**: "for my hanged man, my drowned sailor, my hungry ghost" and "pieces for an imaginary ode." In late March, John presented at UTSA's English Graduate Symposium as part of a panel called "NewBorder: Contemporary Voices from the Texas/Mexico Borderlands," for which he read poetry, including a poem entitled "ode por el amor imprevisto," which will be included in the anthology **NewBorder**, forthcoming from Texas A&M University Press.

MFA fiction student Ali Haider's story "Scheherazade" recently won first place in the Short Story Award For New Writers competition sponsored by **Glimmer Train**. His story will be published in either the Summer or Fall 2013 issue.

Graeme Wend-Walker's article "On the Possibility of Elsewhere: A Postsecular Reading of Lois Lowry's **Giver** Trilogy" has been accepted by the **Children's Literature Association Quarterly**.

Alexis Cline, who has been teaching Technical Writing here at Texas State University the past four years, is leaving this summer to join the Texas Computer Education Association as their

Publications Specialist. Her duties will include writing various marcom and technical documents as well as training teachers across the state on methods for incorporating technologies into the classroom.

Miriam Williams has been selected to serve as a protégé in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' Millennium Leadership Initiative. As an MLI participant, she will be mentored by a college president throughout the 2012-2013 academic year. She will also attend the MLI Summer Institute in Washington, D.C. in June 2012. "Gray Area," by Debra Monroe, appears in the April 1 issue of **Guernica**. MFA fiction student Benjamin Reed's 2007 story "Surprise Me with Something Familiar" has been selected by **Sou'wester** editors as one of their favorite works from past issues. They've posted the story online, along with a new interview with Ben. MFA poetry student James Knippen's poem "Scutellaria," nominated by Roger Jones, won a 2012 AWP Intro Journal Award and will be published in the Fall issue of **Colorado Review**. His poem "Ghosts Love Windows" has been accepted for publication in **1913: A Journal of Forms**. Additionally, his poem "Bedroom (Pillow Talk)" will be published in **1110**.

"The Exhausted Pose," a short story by MFA fiction student Jeremy Garrett, was selected as a prizewinner in the 2012 Esoteric Awards Fiction Contest sponsored by **Carve Magazine**. The story appears in their spring issue.

Steve Wilson's poem "The Dead Sea" appears in the Spring 2012 issue of **Midwest Quarterly**.

Elizabeth Threadgill, an MFA graduate and current Lecturer, has accepted an offer, with a doctoral assistantship, from the new PhD program in Developmental Education at Texas State University (the first PhD program in Developmental Education).

On March 31, the Writing Center Bobcat Build team helped an elderly San Marcos couple with leaf raking/bagging, painting, and window washing. The team included Taylor Cortesi (MA Literature), Judy Drazan (undergraduate English major), Keri Fitzgerald (MA Literature), Alex Hedrik (undergraduate Anthropology major), Chris Muse (MA Literature), Jamie Peterson (MATC), Caroline Richardson (undergraduate English major), and Samuel Wilson (Mathematics).

Graeme Wend-Walker's article "A Children's Author Anticipates Jacqueline Rose: Identity and Representation in Russell Hoban's **Turtle Diary**" has been accepted by **Jeunesse: Young People, Texts, Cultures**.

Carter Smith's article, "Beckett and the Animal: Writing from 'No-Man's Land,'" has been published in the Spring 2012 issue of **English Literary History**.

John Blair's new book of poetry, **The Occasions of Paradise**, is now out in hardcover & paperback from the University of Tampa Press.

Keith Needham was named Sigma Tau Delta's Professor of the Year.

Katie Kapurch's essay "I'd Never Given Much Thought to How I Would Die': Uses (and the Decline) of Voiceover in the Twilight Films," appears in **Genre, Reception, and Adaptation in the Twilight Series**, an edited collection published by Ashgate. Her article, "Unconditionally and Irrevocably: Theorizing the Melodramatic Impulse in Young Adult Literature through the **Twilight Saga** and **Jane Eyre**," will appear in the next issue of **Children's Literature Association Quarterly**.

MA Literature graduate Karen Royall has been admitted on a full fellowship to the Ph.D. program in English at the University of Texas-Austin. She is in her eleventh year of teaching for Austin Community College, now holding the rank of Professor.

Two poems by MFA poetry student Luisa Muradyan have been accepted by **Ninth Letter**: "In Every Plum" and "Message From a Peeping Tom Named Tom."

Jared Walls recently performed in a preliminary round of the Funniest Person in Austin contest. He was one out of three comics who advanced to the semi-final round (there were 15 contestants). This year, a record 178 comics signed up for the contest, which is put on by Capitol City Comedy Club. Comics compete in preliminary rounds of 14-15 comics. Three from each preliminary round advance to the semi-finals, to be held on May 6, 7 and 8. The finals are held on May 14. Top prize this year is \$2500 and the chance to showcase live in front of representatives from Comedy Central, 3 Arts Entertainment and Mosaic Entertainment.

MFA poetry graduate and current Lecturer Colin Pope read his poem "Goodwill: for Jennie Wrisley" for **The Los Angeles Review's** most recent podcast. The theme of the podcast is "Starting Over".

MFA fiction student Benjamin Reed's Pushcart-nominated story "King of the Apes" (originally published by **Arcadia Magazine**) has been selected by The Committee Room as their Story of the Month for April.

May

Keith Needham was named Texas State Faculty Mentor of the Year. "The Myth of the Colorblind Writing Classroom: White Instructors Confront White Privilege in Their Classrooms," co-authored by Octavio Pimentel, Charise Pimentel and John Dean, has been accepted for publication in **Across the Disciplines Journal: A Journal of Language, Learning, and Academic Writing**. Recent MFA fiction graduate Sean Trolinder's experimental short story, "Accounts about Lakeland," has been accepted for publication in the Spring / Summer issue of **Mary: A Journal of New Writing**. English major/Sigma Tau Delta President Elliott Brandsma received the Honors College's highest recognition: a scholarship for \$3,000 to support his academic/co-curricular endeavors. Collin Bost, an MFA graduate and current Lecturer, has been hired as a Visiting Assistant Professor of English at

Texas Lutheran University.

Nancy Wilson was recognized as Honors Professor of the Year at the Honors College awards ceremony April 26.

MFA fiction student Ali Haider's essay "Heavy Lifting" was published in the **Glimmer Train** online bulletin.

Steve Wilson's poem "The Basilica at Aquileia" will appear in **In the Biblical Sense: An Anthology of Apocryphal Poetry**, forthcoming in 2013.

Recent graduate Edgar Gordyn will enter the Ph.D. program in comparative literature at the University of South Carolina-Columbia this fall, supported by a fellowship for which the Department had nominated him in February: the Presidential Teaching Fellowship in Social Advocacy and Ethical Life, which carries a stipend of \$22,000 a year.