

Reading Matters

Vol. 16, Issue 10, March 24, 2011

From (the Edge of) the Chair's Seat

Whew! This has been a whirlwind return from break, hasn't it, starting with the visit on Monday and Tuesday of the external review team, who met with faculty and students, as well as deans and other administrators. Our work is now completed, at least for the moment, as the external reviewers write up and submit their report to the dean. We will then have a chance to respond, at which point Jon Wilcox, in his capacity as associate chair for faculty and overseer of the review, and I will be in touch with you.

With scarcely time to catch a breath, the reviewers' visit was followed by a week-long visit to the Nonfiction Writing Program by nonfiction writer Joy Castro and a three-day series of talks by Ida Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor and medievalist scholar Jeffrey J. Cohen. You can find details on the department's website about the public events at which both Castro and Cohen will be speaking. We're fortunate to have such delightful and erudite guests with us this week.

On the curricular front, summer course offerings are now visible on ISIS and, much to my surprise and pleasure, newly visible are our Study Abroad offerings, which in the past could only be seen by going to the Study Abroad course list. Those newly-on-our-radar courses show an impressive degree of involvement with overseas work and I hope are helping to encourage our majors to think of themselves as global citizens.

Thanks, by the way, to all faculty for sending fall course descriptions to Erin Hackathorn. Fall offerings will be viewable on ISIS in the coming weeks, as we approach early registration.

Let me take this opportunity to remind you again of another item in the curricular category and with no deadline to worry about. Associate Dean Helena Dettmer is accepting applications on an ongoing basis for the [Associate Dean's Curriculum Development Fund](#), which offers awards of around \$1500 to faculty to enrich current courses or propose new ones. If you have a course in need of buffing or have an idea for a new one, this fund might be worth tapping.

And let me also remind you of an important deadline for CDAs. Any faculty members intending to apply in the fall for a 2012-13 CDA, should let me know of that intention by tomorrow (March 28), so that I can inform the deans, who are requesting a list of

those planning to apply. All I need at this stage is an e-mail message, alerting me of the intent to apply.

Welcome back from break and good luck with the upcoming weeks as we round the post towards the end of the semester.

Publications, Presentations, and other Faculty Matters

Eric Gidal's op-ed piece published in the March 16 issue of *The Press Citizen*, can be found [here](#).

Robin Hemley recently delivered a paper at a Travel Writing Symposium at The Asian Research Institute of the National University of Singapore and also gave a reading March 1st at Florida State University. The new issue of the online journal he edits with some of the graduate students in the NWP, *Defunct* (www.defunctmag.com), will be up at the beginning of April. Also, Break Away Books, a new division of Indiana University Press, will publish his new collection of Short Stories, *Reply All*, next year as well as reissue his novel, *The Last Studebaker*. He also has an essay, "To The Rainforest Room: In Search of Authenticity on Three Continents" forthcoming next month in *Orion* and two new short stories in *New Letters* and *Hobart*.

Adam Hooks has started a website on early modern books and readers that features books from our own Special Collections library. Click [here](#) to read more.

Graduate Matters

Lindsey Row-Heyveld has accepted a tenure-track position at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY.

Bridget Draxler has accepted a tenure-track position at Monmouth College, in Monmouth, IL.

The 13th Annual James F. Jakobsen Conference is scheduled for Saturday March 26, 2011 in the IMU from 12:30-5:30pm. All events are free for students and faculty. Register [here](#).

Research Matters

Faculty are invited to design and direct the Obermann Center's Summer 2012 Research Seminar. One grant up to \$40,000 will be awarded. Obermann Research Seminars bring together 8 to 12 UI and visiting scholars and researchers for 1-2 weeks

for sustained interaction at the Obermann Center, leading to a published volume of essays or special issue of a journal. Deadline: Tuesday April 19, 2011. Click [here](#) for more information.

Staff Matters

Cherie Hansen-Rieskamp has been honored with the Mary Louise Kelley Staff Excellence Award. This award recognizes staff members in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who have performed exceptional service or have increased departmental or College efficiency. Cherie will receive the award at the College's Staff Recognition Reception on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, in the Second Floor Ballroom, IMU, 2:30-4:30 pm. Here's to Cherie for her extraordinary service to the department, and especially the graduate program.

Facebook Matters

The English Department is on Facebook! Go to <http://www.facebook.com/IowaEnglish> to become a "fan" of the Department.

Other Calendars

[UI Master Calendar](#) | [UI Academic Calendar](#) | [The Writers' Workshop Calendar](#) | [The International Writing Program Calendar](#) | [The Writing University Calendar](#)

Future Issues

The next issue of Reading Matters will be on **Thursday, April 14**. Please send submissions for the next issue by 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 13** to [Erin Hackathorn](#).