

Reading Matters

Vol. 16, Issue 12, May 5, 2011

From (the Edge of) the Chair's Seat

The last week of classes, hurrah!, also brings the last issue of Reading Matters for the 2010-11 academic year. As you wrap things up, please don't overlook the usual end-of-the-semester business of graduate evaluations, final exams, and grades (which must be submitted online by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, for DEO approval). When assigning grades, you might wish to keep in mind the College's suggested grade distribution for intermediate courses, which is 18% A, 36% B, 39% C, 5% D, and 2% F (details [here](#)). To see how your grading this semester lines up with your past courses and those of other faculty, the Registrar keeps full statistics on grade distributions in its [Infobank](#).

I will be in the chair's office through early June, taking care of the last work of the year--including salary, staffing, and budget matters. **Claire Fox** will take over briefly as acting chair from May 26 to June 3, while I am away for a week, and then, for a longer stint, as summer chair from June 13 through August 7.

Since this is our (third) annual Graduate Issue of Reading Matters, in just a moment I will hand the rest of this space over to Claire in her role as Director of Graduate Studies, for a report on the year's graduate student accomplishments. But let me first thank all of you for having made this such a successful semester, especially those of you to whom we are saying a fond farewell: **Susan Lohafer**, who is retiring after 38 years with the department; **Steve Kuusisto**, who is taking up a new appointment at Syracuse University; our exchange faculty member, **Anne-Marie Motard**, who is returning to Montpellier; our visiting assistant professors, **Katie Gubbels**, **Tom Keegan**, and **Deb Manion**; the Creative Writing Track Fellows, **Matt Null**, **Michael Schorsch**, **Hannah Park**, and **Cutter Wood**; and **Maggie McKnight**, our indispensable staff member who is resigning next week. All of you have enriched the department greatly and we're grateful to have had you with us.

I also want to thank the three associate chairs, who while not leaving, are returning to civilian life at the end of the semester. The department's success this year in all things faculty, graduate, and undergraduate was due in no small part to the efforts of **Jon Wilcox**, **Claire Fox**, and **Lori Branch**. Many thanks for all of your wise and excellence work!

And to everyone, best wishes to all for a smooth ending to the semester, followed by a relaxing and productive summer.

From Across the Hall, Director of Graduate Studies

Dear English Department graduate students, colleagues, and staff,

It is a pleasure to dedicate this final issue of *Reading Matters* to chronicling the impressive graduate student achievements and awards of this past academic year. Congratulations especially to **Huston Diehl's** students on your honors--your success is a testament to Huston's legacy in our department and the collaborative spirit of our colleagues who are seeing you through to completion.

I would like to extend special thanks to **Cherie Hansen-Rieskamp** and **Maggie McKnight** for administering the graduate programs so smoothly and for gathering these news items during the busiest time of the year. Maggie, you have been an amazing alumna, administrator, and advocate for NWP, and we will miss you tremendously!

As this academic year comes to a close, it is fitting to look ahead to next year by welcoming the incoming cohorts of NWP, PhD, and MA students; their names and profiles appear toward the end of this issue. Welcome to the department, class of 2011-2012--we look forward to meeting you in August!

Have a wonderful summer, everyone!

Claire F.

MFA Graduates

Amy Scott Anderson "Ma: In Search of Lost Mothers" (David Hamilton, dir.)

Erik Habecker "Release" (Patricia Foster/Chris Merrill, co-dir.)

Jenna Hammerich "TV Land" (Jeff Porter, dir.)

Kerry Howley "A Brief History of Ecstasy" (John D'Agata, dir.)

Jennifer Lewis "Remissions" (David Hamilton, dir.)

Susan Manworren "Grace and Rubies" (Susan Lohafer, dir.)

Dylan Nice "The Big Water" (John D'Agata, dir.)

Annie Nilsson "The Moonbeam Song" (Patricia Foster, dir.)

Michael Potter "The Last Invisible Continent" (Patricia Foster, dir.)

Leslie Van Wassenhove "Misconceptions" (Patricia Foster, dir.)

Sarah Viren "Chronicles of the Quetzal" (David Hamilton, dir.)

Nancy Wyland “Cornucopia, Unincorporated” (Robin Hemley, dir.)

Rachel Yoder “Some Really Disgusting Essays About Love” (Robin Hemley, dir.)

MFA Publications, Presentations and Awards

Sandra Allen has work forthcoming in *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and won *Opium Magazine's* Literary Death Match Iowa City Vol. 2 this Spring.

Felicia Chavez was awarded a National Council on Teaching's Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. Also, this spring she was accepted into the School of Art and Art History's Intermedia Program, where she will work toward her second M.F.A.

Mieke Eerkens was awarded a Stanley Grant for 2011 and won 3rd place for a paper presented at the Jakobsen Conference. She presented in the Pedagogy Forum at AWP and in a panel the Craft Culture Critique Conference. Her work was accepted for publication in *Best Travel Writing 2011*.

Rebecca Epstein has an essay, "My Last-Ditch Attempt," forthcoming this summer in *The Griffith Review* out of Australia.

Kendra Greene has essays in *The Daily Palette*, *Defunct*, *Anomalous*, and *New American Notes Online*. She just received a Stanley Graduate Award for International Research.

Stephanie Elizondo Griest, Nonfiction Writing Program 2012, published [an investigative piece](#) about the colonias dotting the Texas-Mexico border for the *Dallas Morning News*. Her essay, “The Hermit,” was named First Runner Up for the Dorothy Churchill Cappon Prize for the Essay, sponsored by *New Letters*. In October, she gave the keynote at Stephen F. Austin State University’s Diversity Week in Nacogdoches, TX and at the Society of Southwestern Author’s annual writer’s conference in Tucson, AZ. In November, she moderated a women’s travel writing panel at NonfictionNow at the University of Iowa. In February, she presented her paper “Wayward Women: On the Road and On the Page” at the Travel Writing Workshop sponsored by the National University Singapore in Singapore. She also gave a keynote for the student chapter of Amnesty International at Mercer University in Macon, GA and moderated a panel on women’s travel writing at AWP in Washington, DC. Here at Iowa, she was named an Obermann Graduate Fellow.

Jenny Lewis’s essays appear in or are forthcoming in *Hunger Mountain, Memoir (and)*, *The Daily Palette*, and *Creative Nonfiction*.

Annie Nilsson's memoir *The Moonbeam Song* has been acquired by Scribner, with a hardcover publication date set for 2013. Her graphic essay "Fish Tale" will appear in *Best Women's Travel Writing 2011*.

Kristen Radtke is *Ninth Letter's* current featured writer and artist. She has essays in the spring issues of *Gulf Coast*, *Bellingham Review*, and *Puerto del Sol*, an essay forthcoming in *Copper Nickel*, and an interview with Honor Moore forthcoming in *The Iowa Review*. She chaired a panel about the interdisciplinary essay at the CCC conference and is teaching a writing course this summer at the University of California, Santa Cruz with the Center for Talented Youth.

Kisha Lewellyn Schlegel was a runner-up for the University of Arizona Poetry Center Summer Residency. Her essay, "Cannulated Screw," will be published in the next issue of *Drunken Boat*.

Deborah Taffa's essay "The Year We Bought Our Hitchhiker" was accepted for publication in *The Best Travel Writing 2011*. She was awarded a full tuition scholarship to study at the 2011 New York Summer Writer's Institute with Phillip Lopate this July, and her paper proposal was accepted by the University of Michel de Montaigne Bordeaux 3; she will go to France to present "Power Plants" at their symposium in December.

Joshua Unikel's work recently appeared in or is forthcoming from *TriQuarterly Online*, *The Normal School*, and *kill author*.

Sarah Viren has been published in *Mason's Road* and *Wags Revue*. She received a Stanley Grant in 2010 and is a Fulbright Grant Finalist for 2011.

Rachel Yoder has work forthcoming in *Fugue* and *Sun Magazine* and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

MFA Job Congratulations

Kerry Howley has accepted a position as a Provost's Visiting Writer at the University of Iowa.

Jenny Lewis has accepted a position as an academic advisor at the University of Iowa.

Cutter Wood has accepted a position as Visiting Scholar in Creative Nonfiction at the University of Louisville.

PhD Qualifications

Fall 2010

Shuhita Bhattacharjee

Justin Blackwood

Kelly Franklin

Robert Gillespie

Nicholas Kelly

Elizabeth Lundberg

Benjamin Miele

Joshua Miner

Farzad Mozafarzadeh

Timothy Robbins

Rebecca Stoll

Spring 2011

Sonja Mayrhofer

PhD Comprehensive Exams

Sarah Fay McCarthy

Sunghyun Jang

Jillian Walker

Ross Salinas

Christine Norquest

Taryne Taylor

Eric Conrad

Brenton Thompson

Kerry Delaney

Daniel Boscaljon

Blake Bronson-Bartlett

Dorothy Giannakouros

Sonia Johnson

Jacob Horn

MA Graduates with Portfolio

Katelyn Porubsky

Seth Robbins

MA Graduate with Thesis

Elsbeth Taylor

Fellowships and Departmental Awards

Marcus Bach Graduate Fellowship

Jessica Wilson (MFA), "Road Worth Walking," dir. John D'Agata

Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship

James Lambert, "Lay those sorrowfull complaints aside': Expressing Religious Joy in Early Modern Literature," dir. Alvin Snider

Elisabeth Shane, "Sensational Literature and the Production of Common Sense: the Rhetoric of Victorian Sensationalism from 1860 through the *Fin de Siècle*," dir. Teresa Mangum

Frederick F. Seely Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship

Matthew Lavin, "Creating the Creator: Reading Secondary Literary Labor in U.S. Literature and Culture, 1890-1940," dir. Loren Glass

Elizabeth Dietz Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship

Wanda Raiford, "The Fantastical Historic and Representations of Black Militancy," dir. Brooks Landon

Best Essay Prize

Matthew J. Lavin, "Clean Hands and an Iron Face: Frontier Masculinity and Boston Manliness in *The Rise of Silas Lapham*," forthcoming in *Western American Literature*

Elizabeth Dietz Best Essay Prize (for work on poetry and poetics)

First place: **Robert Fernandez**, "The One Was the Other and Both of Them No One': Jack Spicer and the Politics of Estrangement"

Second place: **Mary Hickman-Fernandez**, "Figure, Ground and the Contours of Duration: A Look at the Poetry of Erasure in Jen Bervin's *The Desert* and Mary Ruefle's *A Little White Shadow*"

Graduate College Summer Fellowship

Anna Stenson

Ann Pleiss Morris

Jillian Walker

Post-Comprehensive Course Release Fellowships through Graduate College Strategic Initiative Funds

Blake Bronson-Bartlett
Kerry Delaney
Mary Hickman-Fernandez
Sonia Johnson
Sarah Fay McCarthy
Katherine Montgomery
Johanna Brinkley Tomlinson
Lacey Worth

Prairie Lights/Sherman Paul Dissertation Research Scholarship

Benjamin Basan

Frederick P.W. McDowell Dissertation Research Scholarship

Matthew Lavin

Freda Dixon Malone Dissertation Research Scholarship

Anna Stenson

Valerie Lagorio Dissertation Research Scholarship

Erin Mann

Travis Johnson

Edwin Ford Piper Memorial Scholarship

Sarah Fay McCarthy

Dickens Universe Department Tuition Scholarship

LeDon Sweeney

Johanna Brinkley Tomlinson

T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship

Benjamin Basan

Anna Stenson

Humanities, Arts, Sciences, Technology Advanced Collaboratory (HASTAC) Scholar Award

Katherine Montgomery

Department and College Teaching Awards

Gerber Teaching Award

Sarah Fay McCarthy

Irwin Teaching Award
Jacob Horn and Tom Blake

2011 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
Felicia Chavez (MFA)
Travis Johnson (PhD)
Jennifer Loman (PhD)

PhD Graduates

Stephanie Blalock, "Walt Whitman at Pfaff's Beer Cellar: America's Bohemian Poet and the Contexts of *Calamus*" (Ed Folsom, dir.)

Laura Capp, "Dramatic Audition: Listeners, Readers and Women's Dramatic Monologues, 1847-1916" (Florence Boos, dir.)

Bridget Draxler, "Novel Spectators: Engaged Spectatorship in the Eighteenth-Century Novel" (Judith Pascoe, dir.)

Richard Garrett, "Medieval Anxieties: Translation and Authorial Self-Representation in the Vernacular Beast Fable" (Jon Wilcox, dir.)

Marta Holliday, "The Body as Spectacle: Beauty and Biraciality in American Literature and Film, 1852-2002" (Horace Porter, dir.)

Cory Hutchinson-Reuss, "Mystical Compositions of the Self: Women, Modernism, and Empire" (Mary Lou Emery, dir.)

Travis Johnson, "Affective Communities: Masculinity and the Discourse of Emotion in Middle English Literature" (Claire Sponsler, dir.)

Matthew Low, "Prairie Survivance: Language, Narrative, and Place-Making in the American Midwest" (Phil Round, dir.)

Erin Mann, "Relative Identities: Father-Daughter Incest in Medieval English Religious Literature" (Jon Wilcox, co-dir. and Kathy Lavezzo, co-dir.)

Willis McDonald, "An Ink-Stained Neoclassicist: Joel Barlow and the Publication of Poetry in the Early Republic" (Phil Round, dir.)

Lynne Nugent, “Mixed Company: Genre Crossing in Possetti, Eliot, Schreiner, and Woolf” (Florence Boos, dir.)

Anne Peterson, “The Rhetorics of Sovereignty: Representing Indian Territory in Nineteenth-Century Newspapers and Journals” (Kathleen Diffley, dir.)

Ann Pleiss Morris, “Possess His Books: Shakespeare, New Audiences, and Twenty-First Century Performances of *The Tempest*” (Claire Sponsler, dir.)

Lindsey Row-Heyveld, "Disassembling Disability: Performances of the Non-Standard Body in Early Modern England" (Claire Sponsler, dir.)

PhD Job Congratulations

Stephanie Blalock (Ed Folsom, dir) has accepted a visiting lecturer position at Dortmund Teaching Exchange Program, Dortmund, Germany.

Bridget Draxler (Judith Pascoe, dir) has accepted a communication across campus curriculum position with Monmouth College, Monmouth, IL.

Richard Garrett (Jonathan Wilcox, dir) has accepted a renewable adjunct assistant professor position, University of Wisconsin at Platteville, Platteville, WI.

Joshua Gooch (Garrett Stewart, dir.) has accepted a renewal of his current appointment as a lecturer/visiting assistant professor position at SUNY-Plattsburg, Plattsburg, NY.

Marta Holliday (Horace Porter, dir.) has accepted an assistant professor position at Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL.

Travis Johnson (Claire Sponsler, dir.) has accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship at Central Methodist University, Fayette, MO.

Tom Keegan (Cheryl Herr, dir) has accepted a renewable lecturer position with the Rhetoric Department at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.

Erin Mann (Jonathan Wilcox, dir.) has accepted a visiting assistant professor position with the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Jen McGovern (Kathleen Diffley, dir.) has accepted a visiting assistant professor position at Beloit College in Beloit, WI.

Ann Pleiss Morris (Claire Sponsler, dir.) has accepted a assistant professor position at Ripon College, Ripon, WI.

Lindsey Row-Heyveld (Claire Sponsler, dir) has accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position with Canisius College, Buffalo, NY.

Chad Wriglesworth (Laura Rigal and Christopher Merrill, dirs.) has accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position at St. Jerome's University (Waterloo University), Ontario, Canada.

MA and PhD Publications, Presentations and Awards

Daniel Boscaljon presented "Moving Beyond the Symbolic: The Material Potential of Post-Heideggerean Theology" for the 2010 National AAR meeting in Atlanta, GA, and "Crises of Despair in the 21st Century: Evil and Theological Humanism" for the International Society of Religion, Literature and Culture at Oxford, UK (2010). He also served as the convener for the Theological Humanism sections "Dwelling Theologically" for Theological Reflection and the Pursuit of Ideals, held at the University of Chicago (2011). He won the Marion McFarland Taylor Award for Best Research Paper in the Area of Religion, Ecology, and Sustainability for the paper "Enframing American Landscapes and the Enplotment of Human Dominion" (Midwest American Academy of Religion, 2011) and a 2nd Place Award for "Margaret Fuller and the Narrative Appropriation of the Midwest in 1843" (Jakobsen Forum, 2011). His publications include an invited response to Jessica DeCou's analysis of "Barth's Comic Theology" for the Religion and Culture Web Forum, University of Chicago (2011) "Žižek's Atheist Theology" in the *International Journal of Žižek Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (2010) "What God is Ultimate? Contrasting Tillich's Different 'Gods' in terms of Faith," in the *Bulletin of the North American Paul Tillich Society* (Summer 2010)

Bridget Draxler will spend June and July in England as part of a Chawton House Library research fellowship. In addition to continuing as a HASTAC Scholar this year, she also participated in an Imagining Collaboration exchange grant program with Vanderbilt University, was invited to speak at the University of Missouri as part of a "Print for the People" symposium on Digital Archives, and co-authored an article on "Facilitating Content Creation and Content Research Building the UCOL Digital Library," which is forthcoming in *The Joint Conference on Digital Libraries*.

Jennifer McGovern will present her paper, "'Her Spirit is Going to Haunt Us for Generations': The Captive Legacies of Eliza Fraser and Cynthia Ann Parker" at the

Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP) book studies conference on the Long Twentieth Century. The conference will be held in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia from April 28-30, 2011. Jen has also been accepted to present her paper, "'Death By Torture in the Country of the Mind': Metaphors of Captivity and Freedom in Patrick White's *Voss* (1957)" on the Voice and Identity in Australian Literature panel at the 2012 MLA convention in Seattle.

Katherine Montgomery presented "Ladies Who Launch: Ellen Price Wood and 'Argosy's' Perilous Voyages" at the Dickens Universe Winter Conference. This June she will attend the Digital Humanities Summer Institute in Victoria, British Columbia.

Jennifer Shook is presenting a paper called "Fiery Trials: Staging National Fissures in American Melodrama" as part of a panel called "Incendiary Acts: Theatre Fires, Architecture, Anti-Theatricality, and Artifice" at the American Theatre in Higher Education Conference in August.

Eric Siegel presented a paper, "Queer Nature Writing: the Queer Ecological Relations in Reinaldo Arenas's *Before Night Falls*," as a panelist for Queer Ecology session, sponsored by the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, at the 2011 MLA conference in Los Angeles. This concludes his third and final year as a Corse Fellow, awarded on behalf of the Department of English at the University of Vermont.

Anna Stenson won the 2011 Walter L. Arnstein Prize for Dissertation Research in Victorian Studies from the Midwest Victorian Studies Association.

Angela Watson's "Language Variety in Literature," an entry for the *Encyclopedia of Identity*, was published by Sage late last year. The electronic copy of the 2-volume set can be found on the main library's website.

2011 Incoming PhD Students

Thank you to **Eliza Sanders** who coordinated student visits on behalf of AGSE, and to current graduate students **Jessica Issacharoff, Jennifer Shook, Eric Siegel, Annmarie Steffes, and Elspeth Taylor**, who served as hosts to prospective students.

Kyle Barton

BA University of Massachusetts-Lowell, 2010; MA University of Massachusetts-Lowell, 2011

19th century British literature; gender and sexuality studies

Nicholas Borchert

Presidential Fellow

BA Augustana College, Rock Island, IL, 2010

19th century American and British literature; “environmental literature” and sustainability/localist movements

Chelsea Burk

BA University of Iowa, 2010

20th century American literature; feminist criticism

Kathryn Carty

BA Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, IA 2011

Early Modern literary studies

Nicholas Cooley

Presidential Fellow

BA University of Alaska, 2004; MA University of Idaho, 2010

19th century American literature; ecocriticism

Sean de Vega

Dean’s Fellow (returning)

BA Rice University, 2004; MA University of Iowa, 2006

19th century British literature

Jomil Ebro

Dean’s Fellow

BA California State University Fullerton, 2004; MA, New York University, 2011

Postcolonial theory and literatures; critical theory

Samuel Fitzpatrick

BA George Washington University, 2008

American, British, and Irish literatures; postcolonial studies and African-American and Native American literature and folklore

Douglas Foster

BA Indiana University, 2010

18th century British literature

Benjamin Kirbach

BA University of Iowa, 2008

Cultural studies, feminist theory, literary and film theory, postmodernism, posthumanism

Jacqueline Kleist

Presidential Fellow

BA St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI, 2006; MA Kansas State U, 2011

Early American literature, travel writing, ethnic/minority literatures, cultural studies, women's studies

Laura Kuhlman

BA Ball State University, 2011

20th century American literature; Poetry

Michelle Taylor

BA Miami University, Ohio, 2009; MA, University of Virginia, 2011

19th century British literature

Natalie Perfetti

BA Millikin University, Decatur, IL, 2009; MA Florida State University, 2011

20th century American literature; gender and sexuality studies

Vincent Rotkiewicz

BA University of Mississippi, 2008; MA University of Mississippi, 2011

Medieval literary studies

2011 Incoming MA Students

Miriam Janecek

BA University of Iowa, 2010

18th century British literature

Gretchen Stiteler

BA Johns Hopkins University, 2008

Ecocriticism, "Nature" and animality in American Literature

2011 Incoming MFA Students

Catina Bacote, Brooklyn, NY

BA Wesleyan University, 1994; MEd Columbia University, 1997

Barret Baumgart, San Diego, CA

BA University of California – Berkeley, 2010

Amy Bernhard, Iowa City, IA

BA University of Iowa, 2010

Blair Braverman, Waterville, ME
BA Colby College, 2011

Suzanne Cody, Iowa City, IA
BA University of Iowa, 2011

Olivia Dunn, Brooklyn, NY
BA Boston University, 2006

Lisa Gray Giurato, Cedar Rapids, IA
BA University of Iowa, 2010

Emily Ha, Philadelphia, PA
BA Colgate University, 2009

Elliott Krause, Lawrence, KS
BA University of Kansas, 2011

Michal “Maggie” Milstein, San Diego, CA
BA University of California – San Diego, 2011

Quince Mountain, Mountain, WI
BA University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2006

Alumni Matters

Kim Cohen (Bluford Adams, dir) has accepted an instructional designer position at Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, NY.

John P. Craig (PhD 2009) has accepted an assistant professor position at Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL.

Kimn Gollnick (MA 2010) accepted an adjunct faculty position at Kirkwood Community College beginning Fall 2010 where she teaches Composition I & II, and College 101. Her articles "Ultimate Disasters: The Flood" and "Up From the Dead" have been reprinted in a Time Warner, Inc. anthology titled *Mysteries of the Bible*, re-released in a beautiful softcover edition for the holiday season in November 2010. She also continues to work with Professor Florence Boos on her scholarly website, [The Morris Online Edition](#).

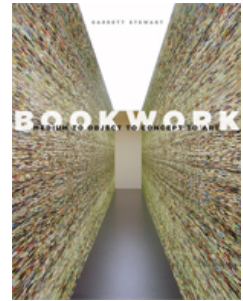
Kathryn Gubbels (Jonathan Wilcox, dir) has accepted a renewable assistant professor position with Wayne State College, Wayne, NE.

Thomas McLean (PhD 2004) was recently promoted to Senior Lecturer at the University of Otago. In November he gave a public lecture at the University of Nebraska-Omaha on his book *Further Letters of Joanna Baillie*. The lecture was broadcast on Omaha Public Radio and is now available [here](#).

Keith Wilhite (Barbara Eckstein, dir) has accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position with Siena College, Loudonville, NY.

Faculty Matters

Garrett Stewart's new [book](#) on sculpture just arrived at Prairie Lights.



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](#) | [NonFiction Writing Program Calendar](#) | [The Writers' Workshop Calendar](#) | [The International Writing Program Calendar](#) | [The Writing University Calendar](#) |