

Reading Matters

Vol. 16, Issue 8, February 10, 2011

From (the Edge of) the Chair's Seat

Three weeks have passed in (to use a seasonally inspired metaphor) a blizzard of meetings, the highpoints of which may interest you.

First in importance are the meetings around the Digital Literacies/Visual Cultures search. The search committee has met and made its recommendations to the department, which has, in turn, also met and voted on the three candidates we brought for campus visits. The paperwork is now wending its way through the virtual meeting-space of Workflow and I will keep you informed through the next stages as offers are made. Many thanks once again to the hard-working search committee, co-chaired by Mary Lou Emery and Claire Fox, and consisting of Jeff Porter, Garrett Stewart, Ben Basan (as the graduate student member), and Colin Gordon (representing the Digital Humanities Steering Committee).

Next in line are a number of reminders from the deans, conveyed at a recent DEO meeting, the most surprising of which is that the College is concerned that it is not receiving *enough* cases of plagiarism. We are therefore being urged to use the plagiarism-detection program *Turnitin*, or, much more simply, the plagiarism-flagging device on ICON, which will automatically check for plagiarism in any papers submitted through the Dropbox feature on course ICON sites. According to one DEO, plagiarism cases jumped by 500% when his department started using the ICON/dropbox plagiarism device consistently. I'll leave you to ponder whether that is a goal we want to reach. Less attention-getting is word that the deadline to apply to teach a First-Year Seminar for Fall 2011 has been extended; that selected departments (including ours) are now being invited to put in for one of the two-year visiting assistant professors being funded through the ACLS New Faculty Fellowship Program; and that departments (most definitely including ours) should take note of any spaces under their purview that are in need of refurbishing (send suggestions to me).

Last of all, the monthly Faculty Senate meeting provided an update on the state of support for arts, humanities, and social science faculty research (imperiled, but with various levels of leadership keenly aware of the need to protect and even expand research funding for faculty in those areas); informed us that the Athletic Programs are aware of the recommendations about financial reform recently published by the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics; announced that parking rates will be rising (but not enough to spur a mass migration to public transport); and applauded the

launching of another Capital Campaign cycle by the UI Foundation, at which for the first time ever, gifts have broken the billion-dollar ceiling.

And with that, I'll leave you stuffed with information, and ready for the next weeks of the semester.

Publications, Presentations, and other Faculty Matters

Ed Folsom will be delivering the annual Wordfest Lecture, "Walt Whitman's Radical Engagement with Book Culture," at Valparaiso University on February 17.

Robin Hemley was featured in today's issue of *The Daily Iowan*. Click [here](#) to read the article.

Chris Merrill wrote of poetry in a volatile world in Monday's issue of [The Huffington Post](#).

Early Modern Matters

The first meeting of the Early Modern Reading Group will be held on Friday, Feb. 18, at 3:30pm in Gerber Lounge. We will be discussing a (fittingly) brief extract from Ann Blair's new book, *Too Much To Know*, which examines the history of the concepts of "info lust" and "information overload." All are welcome, early modernists or not; many of the issues connect closely with the recent Digital Humanities talks, so anyone whose interest has been piqued should plan to attend. For more info, and for PDFs of the readings, email Adam Hooks.

Research Support Matters

Applications are invited from UI tenured, tenure-track, and clinical faculty for the Obermann Center's Spring Semester 2012 Cmiel Research Semester, "The Dis-Integration of Black America?" Participants receive one course reduction and \$500 each for discretionary research expenses. Participants are selected through competitive review and the approval of Department Executive Officers and Deans. **Deadline for applications is Tuesday, March 8, 2011.** For details click [here](#) or visit the Obermann Center [website](#).

Graduate Student Matters

In preparation for her campus visit later this month, **Lindsey Row-Heyveld** will be holding a mock job talk this Friday, February 11th at 3:45p.m. in Gerber Lounge. Please stop by to offer your support of her presentation of "'If he say true, hee *lies*': *Dissembling Disability in Early Modern England*".

NWP student **Jessica Wilson** has been awarded a Marcus Bach Fellowship for fall 2011 in order to complete her MFA thesis project, titled “Road Worth Taking.”

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, March 3**. Please send submissions for the next issue by 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 2** to [Erin Hackathorn](#).