



Reading Matters

The Department of
English

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From (the Edge of) the Chair's Seat

The unstoppable march, slide, lurch (or whichever verb seems apt) towards the future is on and the end of the semester is fast approaching, along with (gulp) plans for fall as well.

With April 15 as the notification date for graduate-school acceptances, we will soon know the composition of our fall 2013 incoming classes of PhD, MA, and MFA students. Many of those who will accept have already visited Iowa, meeting with faculty and graduate students, sitting in on classes, and exploring the city as they envision what it would be like to study here for two, or three, or more years.

Fall classes are now visible on ISIS and early registration will soon begin. Although there may yet be some shuffling of courses in response to late-breaking changes, you can now see the general contours of our fall offerings. The university is predicting stable enrollments, which means we can anticipate having about the same demand for English classes this upcoming fall as last year. As always, a good subtitle and detailed course description that includes information about assignments helps attract students.

Today sees **Gayle Sand** for the last time in EPB in her official capacity as our administrative assistant. We've had a chance to say farewell at Tuesday's retirement ceremony and while Gayle will be away for the rest of the month, you might be happy to hear that she will be in EPB for a few hours each week into the summer, to help with the training of **Barb Pooley**, who is starting as the new administrative assistant in late April.

Late April and early May will bring two more retirement ceremonies, for Professors **Miriam Gilbert** and **Dee Morris**, as well as the CLAS Faculty Honors Celebration, and our own English undergraduate Honors ceremony. I hope you'll mark those events on your calendar.

In the meantime, keep your eyes open for the last two issues of Reading Matters for the year, dedicated to undergraduate and graduate matters.

Publications, Presentations and other Faculty Matters

Miriam Gilbert has been awarded the department's John Gerber Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching and **Patricia Foster** has won the Carl Klaus Award for the Teaching of Nonfiction Writing. Both awards will be presented at the English Honors Ceremony on Friday, April 26, 2013, 3:30-5:00, in the Old Capitol.

Dee Morris will receive the Distinguished Achievement Award at the annual [UI Celebration of Excellence and Achievement Among Women](#) event at 3:30pm on Tuesday, April 9 in the IMU ballroom. More details about the award can be found [here](#).

Staff Matters

Congratulations to **Gayle Sand** on her retirement after over 16 years with the Department of English. Gayle has been instrumental in departmental & office operations and will be missed by all. **Barb Pooley** will be taking Gayle's place in 308 EPB beginning on April 15. Please join me in welcoming Barb and wishing Gayle all the best in her retirement years.

Graduate Student Matters

Quince Mountain, MFA candidate in the Nonfiction Writing Program, has been awarded a semester-long Marcus Bach Fellowship by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for 2013-14, which he will use to complete his thesis project, "You Are a Prince." His thesis advisor is Professor **Bonnie Sunstein**.

Emeriti Faculty Matters

Essayists on the Essay: Montaigne to our Time, recently published by the University of Iowa Press and edited by Professor Emeritus **Carl Klaus** along with English Department alumnus Ned Stuckey-French (PhD '97), has received a rave [review](#) in the March 22 issue of the *Times Literary Supplement*. The reviewer, Thomas Karshan, calls the book a "superbly useful and pioneering anthology."

Susan Lohafer served on a panel at MLA discussing "What Short Story Theory and Narrative Theory Can—and Can't—Do for Each Other" (January 2013) and gave a paper entitled "Between Story and Essay: Micro-Markers of Storyness" at a conference on "Liminality and the Short Story" in Wuerzburg, Germany (March 2013).

Obermann Center Matters

The Obermann Center for Advanced Studies celebrated the publication on the [Walt Whitman Archive](#) of a major Whitman translation project, "'Poets to Come' in Five Languages," the result of an Obermann Summer Seminar, "Walt Whitman International: Literary Translation and the Digital Archive," directed by **Ed Folsom** in the summer of 2010. This [translation project](#) has already spawned a number of other

projects, including the Whitman Web, sponsored by the U. S. Department of State and the International Writing Program, which is making available online translations of Whitman's "Song of Myself" in ten different languages over the course of the 2012-2013 academic year. Each of Whitman's fifty-two sections is introduced with a foreword by Ed Folsom and followed with commentary by Chris Merrill, accompanied by recordings of the poem in English by Eric Forsythe and in Persian by Sholeh Wolpe (who is translating "Song of Myself" into Persian for the first time as part of this project). The first twenty sections of the poem are now available [here](#).

Facebook

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Other Calendars

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

Future Issue

The next issue of Reading Matters will be on April 18. Please send submissions for the next issue by 5:00pm on Wednesday, April 17 to [Erin Hackathorn](#).