



# Reading Matters

## The Department of English

Volume 18, Issue 9  
March 7, 2013

### From (the Edge of) the Chair's Seat

We've entered the season not only of midterms, but also--and more excitingly--of graduate recruitment. Although exact figures haven't yet been released, the College has advised departments to anticipate roughly the same level of graduate-student funding in the form of TA allocations as we received last year. With those estimates in hand the PhD and MFA admissions and finances committees are in the process of putting together support packages and making offers to the select number of applicants who have been admitted to those programs for 2013-14. In the next few weeks, you will no doubt be hearing requests to meet with prospective graduate students as they come to visit, sit in on classes, and get acquainted with faculty and fellow graduate students. As usual Cherie Rieskamp and Natalie Brown will be coordinating those visits, as we aim to recruit our top candidates.

In other news, the search for a new administrative assistant to replace Gayle Sand in the department as the EPB Shared Service Center is well underway. We plan to conduct interviews in the next few weeks and hope to make an appointment shortly thereafter, with an eye to having someone ready to step in by the time Gayle retires later this spring. Plans for a retirement reception for Gayle are also moving forward, and we'll have a chance in early April to show our appreciation for her sixteen-plus years of outstanding service to the department.

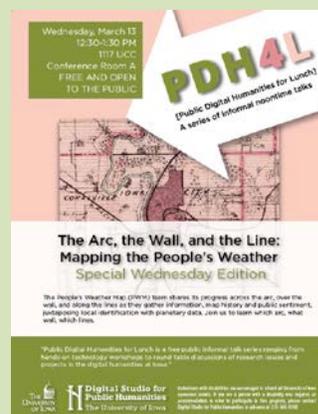
With those mid-March items to keep in mind, enjoy the long week before spring break.

### Publications, Presentations and other Faculty Matters

**Barbara Eckstein**, Jim Gigliano and Mark NeuCollins will be presenting the next installment of the PDH4L series with their talk "The Arc, the Wall, and the Line: Mapping the People's Weather" next Wednesday, March 13 at 12:30 in 1117 UCC, Conference Room A. More information can be found [here](#).

**Patricia Foster** has an essay forthcoming in *The Examined Life* and guest-edited the Southern Humanities Review's summer issue.

On Saturday March 9, the first Iowa Humanities Festival will be held in Des Moines at the Salisbury House focused on the theme, "Collectors, Collections, and Collecting." A collaboration of the University of Iowa and cultural institutions in Des Moines, the Festival will feature English professors **Blaine Greteman**, **Eric Gidal**, and **Matt Brown**, along with other faculty, directors of art museums, and NEH Chairman Jim Leach. \$10 tickets a day



of panels, presentations, and tours, a light lunch, and a closing reception. Everyone is welcome. For details and a link to purchase tickets, please click [here](#).

**Phil Round** will discuss the relationship between Native Americans and the written word at the WorldCanvas event this Friday, March 8. The event begins at 5:00 in the Senate Chambers of the Old Capitol Museum and is free and open to the public. More information can be found [here](#).

## **Obermann Center Matters**

The Obermann Graduate Institute for Engagement and the Academy is in the process of creating short videos featuring alums from their program. One of the first featured students is Jennifer Shook whose video you can find [here](#).

## **Alumni Matters**

Kathleen Anderson (Ph.D. 1996) has co-authored the book, *Jane Austen's Guide to Thrift*, which will be published by Berkley Books of Penguin USA on April 2, 2013.

## **Library Matters**

Stephen Sturgeon, English and American Literature Librarian at the University of Iowa, has been appointed Visiting Professor of Literature at the École normale supérieure, where he will be teaching a short course on Wallace Stevens and Modernist American poetry. His stay in Paris will start March 7 and he will return to the Libraries on April 10. While he's out of the office, please contact [Kathy Magarrell](#), Head of the Libraries' Research and Library Instruction department, with your library service requests.

Also, Alexander Street Press has given us a free trial of their new [South and Southeast Asian Literature](#) database. Edward Miner in the libraries organized it, and he'd be very grateful for feedback on your use of the resource. The trial ends March 16. Should you get a chance to browse around in it, please send along your impressions to Edward at [edward-miner@uiowa.edu](mailto:edward-miner@uiowa.edu).

## **Facebook**

The English Department is on Facebook! Go to <http://www.facebook.com/IowaEnglish> and "Like" the department.

## **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 March 28. Please send submissions for the next issue by 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 27 to [Erin Hackathorn](#).