DR. GARRISON
FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Dr. Kristen Garrison, Assistant Professor of English and Writing Program Administrator, won MSU’s Faculty Member of the Year Award! Her scholarship has recently appeared in Rhetoric, History, and Women’s Oratory: American Women Learn to Speak; Praxis: A Writing Center Journal; and The Theme of Peace and War in Virginia Woolf’s Writings: Essays on Her Political Philosophy. Dr. Garrison was presented with this prestigious award by President Jesse Rogers at the Fall 2014 commencement ceremony. Congrats KG!

Here’s what some of her undergraduate students have to say about Dr. Garrison:

“I have known Dr. Garrison for three out of the four years of my undergraduate career as an English major. She has consistently been kind, lighthearted, and always supportive. I could not have asked for a better advisor, as I never fail to feel confident under her tutelage. She is, like many of the English department's faculty, a treasure to be cherished and appreciated by all those who walk the halls of MSU.” (Bee Quesada)

“Dr. Kristen Garrison not only models for the strong professional but also proves that kindness need not be shed for productivity's sake. Every student, from those she teaches to those who work for her, knows she genuinely cares for them and cheers for their success. The best professor is the one who can shape students at their core, and not a single student passes by Dr. Garrison’s charge without being changed for the better.” (Emily Baudot)

“Dr. Kristen Garrison is one of the few educators that I’ve met whose dedication to their career and their students’ success never wavers. Her passion for her craft shines through in every class meeting and her willingness to help others achieve their goals is seen in every office visit. Dr. Garrison is truly an asset to both the English department and the university as a whole and her selection as MSU’s Faculty Member of the Year is a testament to that fact.” (Tomi Elliott)

“Dr. Garrison has been my advisor since my freshmen year and has helped me make the overwhelming choices of which classes are best for me, eventually guiding me to graduation. She has also been my professor in the past, in a class I thoroughly enjoyed and felt my limits stretched and my knowledge expanded. As my employer, she has shown both patience and encouragement with my antics and my questions. Finally, she is and always will be a strong role-model for me as a professor, a person, and a friend.” (Rachael Krygsman)
CONGRATULATIONS, PAM MARSHALL!

Pam Marshall, secretary of the Department of English, Humanities and Philosophy, won the 2014 President’s Classified Staff Award. Here is a selection of what her colleagues had to say about Pam in their nomination letters:

“It is not an exaggeration to say that Pam is our lifeblood; without her, the Department would quickly descend into a chaos of unutterably horrific proportions. As a rule, academics—myself included—are thoroughly inept at filing paperwork, making copies, and finding basic office supplies like staplers and rubber bands. Pam bears the burden of our ineptitude with grace and kindness.” (Dr. Jun)

“Pam greets students and faculty alike with helpfulness and humor. She is an ideal first contact for the English Department. If she is not at her desk, she is running errands for individual faculty and the department as a whole. Pam doesn’t toot her own horn; she serves in the background, not expecting praise or accolades. And that’s why she deserves this one.” (Ms. Green)

“Pam Marshall is more than an employee of the English Department. She is a member of the English Department family. And anyone who works with or around Pam knows that her value to MSU cannot be measured by the duties her job entails, nor the proficiency with which she performs them. She is the backbone of MSU’s English Department.” (Scott Ramsey, MA student)

“Pam Marshall deserves this award for going above and beyond her duties regarding her job. She always has a kind word, an answer to your questions, and a smile to share with others. She is a welcoming person and is worthy of this award.” (Mrs. Carroll)

“Not only does Pam fulfill all of her duties promptly, she is also extraordinarily welcoming and cheerful. Not once have I seen her upset or annoyed about any of the work she does. I interrupt her almost every day to ask some question or another, or to ask her to do something, and she always does it right away, with a smile. She is like a friend to me, and I believe everyone in our department would agree.” (Dr. Lodge)

“Pam helps make the English department feel as if it were a home away from home. As soon you step in front of the door she greets you with a smile and gives you her full attention. She makes everyone feel comfortable and goes out of her way to help people. She is an inspirational teacher who shows us how giving of ourselves can lead to contentment and true happiness. I am grateful for the chance to work with her and learn from her.” (Melissa Taitano, BA student)

“Along with Pam’s basic duties, which are themselves formidable, she also handles the questions, demands, complaints (and, at times, rants) of every distraught, paper-flourishing citizen who marches in the door of BW 216, wanting the world fixed, and now! In the background, by the way, the phone is ringing off the hook, and the copier just jammed, and someone is waving frantically for help from across the room, having yanked open the machine’s myriad doors and covered himself in toner, and the delivery man from the office-supply warehouse is standing in the hall with a two-wheeler stacked with purchases that need to be checked in. And a prof from another department is edging along the side of her desk, needing immediate assistance with a change in major . . . while, from the behind the prof, a perplexed student from a distant state just has proposed that things are being done differently here, not done as at home, and steps need be taken. And did I mention, she manages it all on time, professionally, and with a smile? Facing the same onslaught, I, for one, long since probably would have opened a window and jumped.” (Dr. Johnson)

“Pam Marshall is our ace in the hole. She is the queen of the little things we’re not thinking about until it’s too late—but it’s not too late. Pam has already thought about it and I can open the cupboard in the office and there will be the special ink cartridge or dry erase marker or whatever I desperately need to stay operational. Pam thinks ahead and tracks us down and keeps us all on the straight and narrow. In truth, each professor is in his or her own way an ongoing crisis—and Pam manages all these crises at once with skill, perseverance, and grace.” (Dr. Fields)

“From Pam’s first day on the job to the present, she has been a dependable, contributing, efficient member of our department, one who frequently goes above and beyond to address the many diverse needs of those in the department. An intelligent, responsible, and caring individual, Pam serves as ballast for our department. We are extremely fortunate to have her as a colleague, and she richly deserves recognition as this year’s President’s Staff Award recipient.” (Dr. Henschel)

“Pam is the go-to person in the department for all things administrative and beyond. She even divined my somewhat obsessive need for hummus on the day I interviewed for my job. I admire and respect Pam for being the anchor which makes our department a friendly, collegial environment to work in.” (Dr. Giles)
Dr. Hoffman recently completed an outreach and recruitment visitation tour of 21 senior high schools in Texas and Oklahoma, where he gave live presentations on the life and poetry of Edgar Allan Poe to 5,088 students, and 563 teachers. His recruitment efforts were directed at undergraduate and graduate candidates in all areas of the liberal arts.

Two memorable Texas stops were Electra High School with its giant Tiger paw prints, where he met with Principal Ben Frieling and English Chair Lindsay Lemon, and Windthorst High School, where he and Principal Lonnie Wise met under the watchful eyes of a 30-foot tall Trojan mascot.

Dr. Hoffman was pleased to note that ten of his former students were chairpersons of the English Departments, three were principals and three were superintendents in the schools he visited.

An important outshoot of his recruiting visits was his invitation to be the morning keynote speaker at the annual AVATAR “Heart of English” conference of English teachers at Region IX Education Center on February 13, 2014. He delivered a 35-minute speech to 85 area English teachers and gave a break-out session on Edgar Allan Poe. His speech, “Bridge over Troubled Waters,” focused on three major challenges faced by teachers today: testing, time and technology.

Dr. Hoffman stated he appreciated all of the support and assistance given him by his chairman, Dr. Dave Rankin; his dean, Dr. Sam Watson; Admissions Director, Leah Hickman; Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Keith Lamb; Dean of Education, Dr. Matthew Capps; Director of Financial Aid, Kathy Pennatz; and President Dr. Jesse Rogers. According to Dr. Rogers, these recruiting visits have made a positive contribution to the university’s increased enrollment.

**HEAD OF THE CLASS**

*English and Philosophy student Ali Ward talks about Dr. Schultz’s Fall 2014 Existentialism course:*

MSU’s small but mighty Philosophy program of one got a little bigger in 2014. Its second philosopher, Dr. Lucy Schultz, taught her first courses this fall. Among them was a course in Existentialism, which I had the pleasure of attending. As a fan of existential literature, I was very excited to attend Dr. Schultz’s class. She didn’t disappoint in the least.

The class consisted of a cozy eight students, which allowed for more intimate discussion. Dr. Schultz’s interaction with me and the other students was very supportive. Several of the students in the class were first-time Philosophy students, and she made sure to encourage their input and let discussion of the texts we read flow naturally. She happily discussed our different interpretations, and her relaxed teaching style shone through in her enjoyable lectures.

Dr. Schultz’s environmental and comparative perspectives provided some really interesting ways of looking at existentialism. The class was lively and fun and I learned a lot about the subject. I’m pleased I got to attend one of her first classes, and I very much look forward to Dr. Schultz and Dr. Jun’s jointly-taught Feminist Philosophy class next semester.

**PERSISTENT PROFESSOR PRESENTS ‘EDGAR ALLAN POETRY’ IN 21 HIGH SCHOOLS!**

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DR. LODGE PUBLISHES NEW TRANSLATION

~ Congratulations on the publication of your translation of Dostoyevsky's Notes from the Underground with Broadview Press! Tell us how and when this project first came about.

In Fall 2013 I was teaching a course on the cultural history of animals, and we read a novel entitled Animal by Don LePan. I was searching for information on the novel when I found his blog. I wrote to him and sent him some of my students’ responses to his book. I subsequently learned that he is the founder and CEO of one of my favorite publishing houses, Broadview Press, which is the Canadian equivalent of Norton. He looked me up on the Internet and saw that I had worked on Notes from the Underground. Broadview was thinking of publishing a new translation of Notes, and he asked me to send in a sample translation. It was sent out to various "judges" together with other translations, and they liked mine the best, so Broadview offered me a contract.

~ How long did the project take from start to finish?

I translated the work in about a month, working about eight hours a day. I translated the background materials (from Russian and French) and wrote the introduction over winter break and in the first month or so of the summer break last year. I also worked closely with an excellent editor. The cover features a photograph by a friend of mine from Moscow.

~ How did you go about choosing the historical materials you included to supplement the novel?

I worked with MSU history major, John Tucker, on choosing the contextual materials. For his EURECA project with me, he helped me choose some; others I chose myself, and a couple were chosen by the publisher.

~ What was your favorite aspect of this project?

Seeing the book in print.

~ In what ways did your rabbit, Novalis, help with the preparation of the manuscript?

Novalis gave me moral support by lying under my desk during the whole process, periodically begging, climbing up my legs, and jumping on my lap. And petting a rabbit always makes for a good break.

~ I understand that upon the positive reception of Notes from scholars around the world you have been asked to translate another Russian classic.

Yes, commentators have said that my translation "manages to convey the paradoxical and painful thoughts of the narrator," that it "gives a convincing contemporary voice to the Underground Man's lament," and that it "preserves both the rigor and the venom of [The Underground Man's] hard-hitting paradoxes." A leading Dostoevsky scholar writes that the edition "offers readers a dazzling collection of contexts, sources, and images for Dostoevsky and his novel." Broadview has since offered me a contract for an edition on Tolstoy's Death of Ivan Ilyich and other stories, and I have applied to EURECA to have students help select background material for this project as well.

~ Do you have any other forthcoming book projects?

Yes, my translation of A Gothic Soul, a Czech Decadent novel by Jiri Karasek ze Lvovic, will be released in March by Twisted Spoon Press.

~ Not only are these translations great personal and professional accomplishments, they are also of great benefit to MSU because having a leading scholar like yourself on faculty really adds to the professionalism and intellectual rigor of the college. Keep up the great work! TG

FALL PUBLICATIONS


Dr. Lodge, Notes from the Underground by Fyodor Dostoevsky. Trans., intro. and background materials. Nanaimo, Canada: Broadview Press, 2014.
"Seeing Time Image created a little window onto these alternate versions of Dr. Coxe and Dr. Jun, and the experience of looking through that window as a student was both very fun and also slightly surreal." (Allison Douglass, MA candidate)

ASSOCIATION FOR CORE TEXTS & COURSES

Through the efforts of Dr. Lodge and MSU’s Provost, Dr. Betty Stewart, MSU is now an institutional member of Association for Core Texts and Courses, an international professional association whose goal is to advance liberal arts education through the study of core texts in every discipline. Core texts are classic primary texts that have had a significant historical impact.

Benefits for MSU undergraduates include the opportunity to attend the annual student conference, with all expenses paid except for travel and Saturday night dinner. Students must be nominated for their work on a core text in any discipline. Three papers presented at the annual conference are published in ACTC’s student journal each year. Another undergraduate benefit is the opportunity to apply for the annual Oxford Study Abroad Program Summer Session. Applications are due in April.

Each year, ACTC holds an international professional conference for faculty, focused on the teaching and interpretation of core texts. Participants attend meals together, listen to keynote lectures by acclaimed scholars twice a day, and present short papers in panels that provide ample time for sharing intellectual and pedagogical ideas. Graduate students may attend the annual conference at a reduced rate. Other faculty benefits include special-topic conferences; opportunities to participate in curriculum- and faculty-development projects; and the opportunity to apply for an annual summer Scholar-in-Residence Programme at Oxford University.

Thanks, Dr. Lodge, for spearheading ACTC’s arrival at MSU!
PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Coxe presented “Text, Sound and Image in Robert Bresson’s Une femme douce” on the “Dostoevsky: Contemporary Contexts and New Concepts” panel at the Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies Conference in San Antonio on Nov. 23rd.


Dr. Giles presented “Books are better for Banning and Burning than Page Turning” at MSU’s Moffett Library on Sept. 25th. The event was made possible with the generous help of Moffett’s Cortny Bates, Michelle Neibur, and others. Dr. Giles also organized a public Philosophy Club panel discussion featuring himself, Dr. Schultz of Philosophy, and Dr. Dodge of Environmental Science, entitled “Invisible Scars of a Dying Word: Three Environmental Perspectives.” The event took place at 7:00 pm on Nov. 18th.

Dr. Henschel served on the Conference Committee, moderated a technology workshop, and coordinated corporate sponsorships for the Society for Technical Communication Academic SIG 2014 Partnership Pre-Conference at the University of Colorado—Colorado Springs on Sept. 25th. She then served on the Program Committee and moderated a panel at the Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication Conference on the 26th and 27th. Her panel was entitled “Across Disciplinary Lines: Fostering Connections and Seizing Opportunities at New Mexico Tech.” Dr. Henschel also attended the Council on Undergraduate Research “Connecting Undergraduate Research to Other High Impact Practices” workshop as a member of an MSU team along with Dr. Rincon-Zachary and Dr. Robert Clark at the University of San Diego on Nov. 21-23rd. They will present their findings and recommendations to the MSU community in the spring.

Dr. Jun presented “Bill McBride, Anarchist” at a book session on Revolutionary Hope: Essays in Honor of William L. McBride at the North American Sartre Society, Diverse Lineages of Existentialism Conference in St. Louis on June 19th. He also presented “Political Theory and Social History: The Case of Anarchism” and “Hegel and Anarchist Communism” at the 3rd Annual Anarchist Studies Network Conference at Loughborough University in Loughborough UK on Sept. 4th and 5th. And Dr. Jun presented “Contemporary Anarchist Philosophy: A Brief Critical Overview” at the Eleventh Biennial Radical Philosophy Association Conference at SUNY Stony Brook on Nov. 6th.

Dr. Lodge presented “The Sickness of Consciousness in the Western Philosophical Context” to MSU’s Philosophy Club on Sept. 23rd. She also presented “Founding a Literary Movement: Decadence in Russia” to two sections of the MSU’s Honors Leadership Seminar on Oct. 6th and 13th. Dr. Lodge organized a panel titled “Dostoevsky: Contemporary Contexts and New Concepts” at the Association for Slavic, Eastern European, & Eurasian Studies Conference in San Antonio on Nov. 23rd, where she presented her essay "Dostoevsky's Notes from the Underground: The Sickness of Consciousness in the Philosophical and Literary Context."

Dr. Rankin was the invited speaker at the MSU Honors luncheon on September 10th. His Power-Point talk, “How Language Shapes Our Thoughts,” explored the extent to which we, with little or no conscious awareness, might be cognitive “prisoners” of the structure of our language.
ACCOLADES

Mrs. Carroll is currently working with the Academic Vertical Alignment and Renewal (AVATAR) committee in developing the College Preparatory Course Project to strengthen regional secondary and postsecondary partnerships to create and document the development of vertically aligned English language Arts and Mathematics college preparatory courses pursuant to House Bill 5, 2013 83rd Texas Legislative Session.

Dr. Fields and members of MSU’s chapter of Sigma Tau Delta English honor society continued their volunteer work with the Wichita Falls Area Food Bank’s Power Pack 4 Kids Program both long semesters of 2014. The following Sigma Tau members and friends packed food and drink for kids at risk of hunger in regional schools: Cody Parish, Danielle Schwertner (Volunteer Coordinator), Roylyka Roache (President), Marcus Green, Josh Howard, Ginger Bartush, Emily Baudot, Sian Mapuvire, Ali Ward, Lisa Moore, Christopher Moore, Sean Pinkos, and Tammy Hornbeck. Jim McMahon, Coordinator of the Childhood Hunger Project/Wichita Falls Area Food Bank, also helped pack donations with Dr. Fields and the other volunteers.

Dr. Giles was invited to join the Advisory Board of the Wichita Falls Museum of Art for a three-year term due to his commitment to the arts at MSU.

Dr. Henschel and English graduate student Heather Alexander received a substantial MSU Office of Academic Affairs Internal Research Grant in the fall for a study titled “Computational Rhetoric: Theories, Methods, and Application in the Technical and Professional Writing Curriculum.” The purpose for the proposed study is 1) to identify primary characteristics of computational rhetoric; 2) to determine if, how, and where these characteristics align with rhetorical theoretical concepts, classical to post-process; and 3) to apply these findings as members of a project team that will build a prototype application in the summer of 2015 at the Rhetoric Society of America Institute workshop Building Sophware: Modeling Theoretical Approaches to Technical and Professional Writing with Computational Methods.

Dr. Henschel and Lewis (Mass Comm) and undergraduates Danielle Schwertner (English) and Kelly Calame (Mass Comm) received a second EURECA grant which allowed them to continue their study from the previous semester, “Adapting Communication Curriculum to Meet the New Texas Core: Tracking Trends, 2013-2015.” They will be presenting their findings, “Applying Undergraduate Research: The Texas General Education Communication Core Curriculum, 2013-2015,” at the Southwest Regional Research Association conference in San Antonio in February 2015.

Dr. Lodge was awarded the Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society Grant for attendance of the LEAD leadership training and national conference in Atlanta in July-Aug. 2014. At the conference she received a Student Organization Faculty Advisor Certificate for her leadership role with MSU’s Mortar Board chapter. She also received a matching MSU Office of Student Affairs and Enrollments Grant to attend the conference. Dr. Lodge was also awarded a Czech Ministry of Culture Translation Grant for translating and publishing Kárasek’s A Gothic Soul in 2014. The book will be published by Twisted Spoon Press in March 2015. She is also the new Vice-President of the Texas Association of College Teachers at MSU. Last but not least, Dr. Lodge acted as judge and member of the American Translators Association for the prestigious Galantiere national translation prize in the summer of 2014.

Dr. Rankin and Dr. Hood (Mathematics) have received a Academic Affairs Internal Research Grant for research in historical linguistics. The project will explore the rate of word distribution frequencies in English from the present time back to Anglo-Saxon to determine if the Zipf-Mandlebrot Law of frequencies is valid for human language. Kameron Shrum, an undergraduate Computer Science major, is assisting with data collection for the project.
ENGLISH SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The English Scholarship Committee is proud to announce our Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 student scholarship award winners! The Bourland Hawley English scholarship goes to both Melissa Laussman (undergrad) and Allison Douglas (grad); the Bourland Hawley Creative Writing scholarship goes to Laura Estrada (undergrad) and Josh Ibarra (grad); and the Bourland Hawley Technical Writing scholarship goes to Heather Alexander (grad) and Sean Pinkos (grad).

The Threadgill ELAR scholarship was awarded to Krysta Woods (undergrad). Congrats award winners! And thank you to our scholarship donors!

Students should be sure to apply again for both 2015-2016 English Department & Prothro-Yeager scholarships in March 2015.

NEW COURSE OFFERINGS

Dr. Coxe’s new Film Genre course will examine film from a contemporary perspective, with a focus on film productions from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Dr. Coxe’s new Screenwriting course will look at the elements of screenwriting from a number of perspectives. Not only will students watch segments of a variety of films, analyze dialogue, and read scripts, they will also break down the component elements of a successful script and locate them in the sequences they read and watch.

Dr. Giles is teaching Contemporary Literature: American Women Writers, MSU’s first postfeminist theory and postmodern American women’s literature and art course this semester.

Dr. Jun’s Jewish Philosophy course is a historical and theoretical survey of the Jewish philosophical tradition from antiquity to the present. Figures to be discussed include Philo of Alexandria, Moses Maimonides, Judah Halevi, Hasdai Crescas, Martin Buber, Franz Rosenzweig, and Emmanuel Levinas.

Dr. Lodge’s new Origins of European Modernism, 1855-1915 will focus on nineteenth- and early twentieth-century works that laid the ground for the European avant-garde movements of the 1910s.

Mrs. Nivens’s new Elementary Education Writing Pedagogies will offer education majors strategies for teaching writing in the elementary classroom. The course will include a study of sites for literacy as well as an examination of writing as a process.

Dr. Schultz is teaching three new classes this semester: Feminist Philosophy (w/ Dr. Jun), Eastern Philosophy and Religion, and Medical Ethics.