English, Humanities, and Philosophy News

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RED RIVER READING SERIES



Dr. John Schulze

The Red River Reading Series (RRRS) is an opportunity for students and professors to share their poetry, fiction, and personal essays with the MSU community. Each reading presents two student writers and one faculty member who also writes creatively. Student writers have ten minutes to share their work and fac-

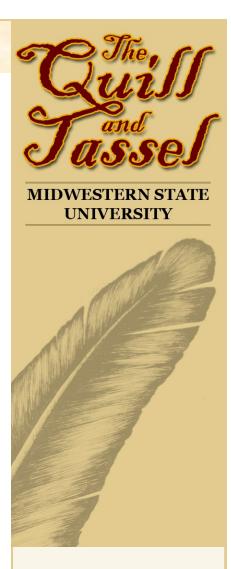
ulty members have twenty minutes. All readings are held the first Friday of the month during the Fall and Spring semesters at 4:00 PM in the multipurpose room of Legacy Hall and are free and open to the public. By the way, there are always refreshments served during the midpoint of the reading.

Our first three readings in the Fall of 2016 included work from professors **Dr. Nathan Jun**, **Dr. Donavan Irvin**, and **Dr. Robert Johnson**, and our student readers included **Erica Bourland**, **Chad Marqui**, **Lane Riggs**, **Kalli Root**, **Ali Ward**, and **Jonathan Henderson**. Spring 2017 looks to be just as promising. RRRS will present the creative work of faculty members **Dr. John Schulze**, **Ms. Krista Rascoe**, and **Mr. Joshua Ibarra**. Student writers who will share their work include **Faith Munoz**, and **Serah Welborn**. Be sure to look for our poster that has the complete schedule, or you can check out our Facebook page.









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ACCOLADES

At the **2016** Honors Recognition Banquet on Apr. 22, Andrea Mendoza Lespron (English BA) won Woman of the Year. Congratulations to our department's other nominees, Holly Frazier and Jonathan Henderson!

The winner of the 2016 **Vinson Award in Creative Writing** is **Kalli Root**, for her essay "You're Not As Cool As You Think You Are." Readers enjoyed the essay's clarity and polish, the strength of its voice and the flow of its lines. Honorable mention goes to **Caitlin McNeely**, for her poem "Twenty Fifteen," and to **Alexis Mendez**, for her poem "I Never Wrote a Sonnet." The readers found both poems remarkable.

Dr. Giddings won the **Best Paper Award** at the **Texas College English Association Conference** in San Antonio in Mar. 2016 for his presentation entitled "Masculinities and Role Models in McMurtry's *Horseman, Pass By.*"

Dr. Giles was invited to join the Editorial Board of the Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas in the fall of 2016. He was also invited to give a talk at MSU's National Society of Collegiate Scholars induction ceremony Oct. 15, 2016, as well as to present "Going with the Grain: Taoism, Leadership, and the Interconnectivity of The Way" to MSU's Honors Leadership Seminar on Oct. 20, 2016. Dr. Giles wrote two brief art historical articles which appear on the website of the Wichita Falls Museum of Art at MSU titled "David Bates" and "Chuck Close up Close," and the first comprehensive history of the Wichita Falls Symphony Orchestra titled "Symphonic Sounds on the South Plains: A History of the Wichita Falls Symphony Orchestra." The latter appears at www.wfso.org.

Dr. Henschel was selected as the MSU **Piper Award Nominee** for 2016. The Piper Professor Award recognizes professors for outstanding academic and scholarly achievement and for dedication to the teaching profession. Each college and university in Texas is allowed to submit one nomination.

Dr. Irven had his book proposal "To Speak, To Act, To Be" accepted in Nov. 2016 by **Duquesne University Press**. That same month, he was invited to guest edit a special issue of the journal **Review of Communication**, which will focus on philosophy and literature, particularly on how literature can communicate or disclose ontological insights.

Dr. Jun received the **Distinguished Faculty Award** from the **MSU Black Student Leadership Initiative** in Feb. 2016 for his "service to the African American and other minority communities on campus."

ACCOLADES CONTINUED

Dr. Jun was also invited to serve as a Faculty Fellow of the Anarchist Studies Initiative at the State University of New York—Cortland.

Melissa Laussmann (English BA 2016) won the 2016 Outstanding English Student award for the Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities & Social Sciences. She was also inducted into Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges and was elected a member of the Alpha Chi National College Honors Society. A great year for Melissa!

Austin Monson (Sociology BA) won Best Oral Presentation, Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities & Social Sciences, for his EURECA project titled "Bridging the Gap: The Wichita Falls Symphony Orchestra and the Next Generation of Music Lovers" on Nov. 17th, 2016 at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum. His faculty mentors were Dr. Andrea Button (Sociology) and Dr. Giles.

Lisa D. Moore (English BA Fall 2016) won Best Oral Presentation, Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities & Social Sciences, for her EURECA project titled "Bridging the Gap: The Anglo-Saxon Connection between the English and German Languages" on Apr. 28, 2016 at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum. Lisa's mentors were Dr. Yvonne Franke (German), Dr. Fields, and Dr. Galbraith (Emeritus).

Dr. Schulze was elected Vice President of the **American Studies Association of Texas** at their Oct. 2016 annual conference.



Melissa Laussmann and Dr. Betty Stewart



Lisa Moore



Austin Monson

ENGLISH MAJOR ASHLEY DAVIS PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL OF CUNNINGHAM ELEMENTARY



Ashley Davis and mentor Dr. Fields

English Education

As the experience of Ashlev Davis indicates. English majors often become teachers—even if they are not planning on it. The best way to become certified to teach is while you are still an undergraduate. Talk to your English Advisor about this option and the required courses. In addition, just as Ashley did, you should keep in mind the importance of graduate school. The Education program offers graduate degrees applicable to teaching and administration, and the English program offers a graduate degree with great opportunities for professional training including the GA/ TA assistantship. GA/TA students take Teaching College English and have the opportunity their second year to teach freshman English.

Ashley Brianne Davis (formerly, Watts) was an outstanding English Major who graduated from MSU in 2009 and became principal of Cunningham Elementary School in August 2015.

While she was a student, Communities in Schools (CIS) offered an after-school program in Wichita Falls for helping "at risk" junior high students with their reading. CIS approached MSU Sigma Tau Delta for volunteers, and Ashley Watts, Jared Willden, and Adam Bell answered the call.

Ultimately, Adam Bell became a CIS program manager at Zundy Junior High and hired Ashley as a paid tutor. When Ashley graduated, she participated in an online program that certified her to teach, and she was hired to teach English fulltime at Kirby Junior High the fall of 2009.

While still teaching at Kirby, Ashley completed her Master of Education degree online and became assistant principal at Alamo Elementary School in fall 2013. When Alamo closed, Ashley became assistant principal at Scotland Park Elementary School. At the time, WFISD considered Scotland Park to be academically deficient, but by the end of the school year, Ashley and her principal, Laura Scott, had turned the school around in a way that caught everyone's attention. People encouraged Ashley to apply for a principal's position. She'll never forget the phone call 8:30 PM at night, telling her she had the job as principal at Cunningham.

Mark Davis, Ashley's husband, is presently principal of Booker T. Washington Elementary. She and Mark were high school sweethearts. Mark graduated from MSU with a business degree but the "great recession" of 2008 made finding a job in his field a challenge. He began substituting at Kirby and like Ashley earned his certification to teach online. Ashley and Mark finished the same online master's program at the same time. Both Jared Willden and Adam Bell also went on to fulltime careers as teachers.

~ Dr. Peter Fields

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Fields. "Outlaw Pete: Bruce Springsteen and the Dream-Work of Cosmic American Music." BOSS: The Biannual Online-Journal of Springsteen Studies 2.1 (2016): 9-40. Web.

Dr. Fields. Rev. of *Shaped by Stories: The Ethical Power of Narratives* by Gregory Marshall. *The Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning* 21 (Winter 2015-16): 131-33.

Dr. Fields. Rev. of *The Lyric Theory Reader: A Critical Anthology*, edited by Virginia Jackson and Yopie Prins. *Rocky Mountain Review* 69.1 (Spring 2015): 99-102.

Dr. Giles. Rev. of *Crowded by Beauty: The Life and Zen of Poet Philip Whalen* by David Schneider. *Journal of Beat Studies* 4 (2015): 69-74.

Dr. Johnson. "Revengers, Redeemed." *Popular Culture Review* (27.1): 29-47.

Dr. Jun. "Romantic Anarchism: Asceticism, Aestheticism, and Education." *Literature Compass* 13.1 (2016): 34-43.

Dr. Jun. "On Philosophical Anarchism." *Radical Philosophy Review* 19.3 (2016): 551-567.

Dr. Jun. Rev. of *Transnational Radicals: Italian Anarchists in Canada and the U.S. 1915-1940* by T. Tomchuck; and *Immigrants Against the State: Yiddish and Italian Anarchism in America* by T. Tomchuck. *Altreitalie* 52 (January-June 2016): 134-136

Dr. Lodge. *The Death of Ivan Ilyich and Other Stories* by Leo Tolstoy, ed. and trans., with a scholarly introduction and background materials. Nanaimo, Canada: Broadview Press, 2017.

Dr. Lodge. Trans. of recent poems by Štěpán Nosek ("The Pond, Moonlight, 1904," and "in the sunlit garden..."). *Poetry Ireland Review* 119 (Fall 2016). Web.

Dr. Lodge. Rev. of *Paranoia* by Victor Martinovich. *Slavic and East European Journal* 60.2 (Summer 2016): 365-66.

Dr. Nivens. "Farm to Table: The Home Management House as Rhetorical Space for Rural Women." *Peitho* (March 2017). Web.

Dr. Schulze. "No Safe Harbor." Short Story. *Literary Orphans* (2016). Web.

Dr. Schulze. "Heat." Short Story. Pure Slush 12 (Summer 2016): 16.

Dr. Schulze. "Nature of the Beast." Short Story. *Corvus Review* (2016). Web.

Dr. Schulze. "Courting." Short Story. *50-Word Stories* (July 13, 2016). Web.

ASAT Conference Nov. 2016



Cody Parish



Dr. Greg Giddings



Dr. John Schulze



Dr. Todd Giles and Alicia Ward

PRESENTATIONS

Betty Carroll and **Dr. Nivens** presented "ELAR College Prep Course" at the **Region IX Education Service Center** in Wichita Falls on July 26, 2016. **Dr. Nivens** also presented "Grab Some Grammar and Go" as part of the AVATAR program on July 14, 2016.

- **Dr. Fields** presented "Owen Barfield, William James, Consciousness, and the 'old spiritual psychology" at the **Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association** conference in Salt Lake City on Oct. 6, 2016.
- **Dr. Giddings** presented "Masculinity in Pat Conroy's *My Losing Season*" at the **American Studies Association of Texas** conference at Sam Houston State on Nov. 11, 2016.
- **Dr. Giles** presented "Poets, Painters, and Paper: Intersecting Ideologies in Post-World War II American Avant-Garde Art" at the **American Studies Association of Texas** conference at Sam Houston State on Nov. 11, 2016.
- Dr. Henschel presented "Incorporating Visuals into an Argument" at the W4Tx Summer Institute: Keep Calm & Write Region IX ESC, Wichita Falls, TX. July 14, 2016.
- **Dr. Johnson** presented his short story "Casa de Cards" at the **Southwest Popular Culture Association** in Albuquerque in Feb. 2016. He also presented the story "Gifted" at the **American Popular Culture Association** / **Popular Culture Association** in Seattle in Mar. 2017.
- **Dr. Jun** presented "Romantic Anarchism: Aestheticism, Asceticism, and Education" at the **Western Political Science Association** conference in San Diego on Mar. 26, 2016.
- **Dr. Jun** presented "Anarchism 101" and "Liberating Anarchist Studies from the Tyranny of (A)historicism" at the **All Power to the Imagination** conference at New College of Florida on Apr. 30, 2016.
- **Dr. Jun** presented "Rationalism and Irrationalism in Classical Anarchist Thought" at the **North American Society for Social Philosophy** conference at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada on July 22, 2016.
- **Dr. Jun** presented "Anarchist Concepts of Freedom" at the **Anarchist Studies Network 4.0** conference at Loughborough University in England on Sept. 16, 2016.
- **Dr. Jun** also presented "Rationalism and Irrationalism in Classical Anarchism" at the **Northeastern Political Science Association** conference in Boston on Nov. 10, 2016.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

- **Dr. Lodge** presented "Teaching Tang Dynasty Poetry: The Example of Du Fu" at the **Association for Core Texts and Courses** conference in Atlanta on Apr. 16, 2016.
- **Dr. Lodge** read from her translation of Tolstoy's "Strider" at MSU's **Celebration of Scholarship** on Apr. 27, 2016.
- **Dr. Lodge** also presented "Seduction, Sin, and Sickness: Vampires in Czech Decadence" as part of MSU's **Speakers and Issues Series** on Nov. 14, 2016 at the Wichita Falls Museum of Art at MSU.
- **Dr. Nivens** presented "Composing Politics in the Digital Age: Pairing First-Year Composition and American Government" at the **National Learning Communities Conference** in Atlanta, GA in Nov. 2016.
- **Dr. Nivens** also presented on an MSU Teaching and Learning Resource Center panel about Learning Communities on Dec. 1, 2016 with **Dr. Brandy Jolliff-Scott** (Political Science).
- **Cody Parish** presented "Resistance and the Colonial Zombie in M.T. Anderson's *Octavian Nothing*" at the **American Studies Association of Texas** conference at Sam Houston State on Nov. 12, 2016.
- **Dr. Rankin**, **Dr. Jeff Hood** (Math), and **Kameron Shrum** (Math/Computer Science BA) presented "Data Acquisition for, and Analysis of, Word Frequencies in the English Language" (Kameron Shrum, presenter) at the International Conference on Computational Science and Computational Intelligence in Las Vegas on Dec. 17, 2016. The paper will be published in the conference proceedings.
- **Dr. Schulze** presented his short story "American Tourister" at the **Popular Culture & American Culture Association** conference in Seattle on Mar. 24, 2016.
- **Dr. Schulze** also presented "An Ontology of Disaster: A Short Story" at the **American Studies Association of Texas** conference at Sam Houston State on Nov. 11, 2016.

Alicia Ward (English MA candidate) presented "Poets, Painters, and Paper: Collaborative Intersections and the Curatorial Imagination" at the **American Studies Association of Texas** conference at Sam Houston State on Nov. 11, 2016.

Poets, Painters, and Paper: Post-World War II American Avant-Garde Art

Dr. Giles' Post World War II Art & Poetry class last fall was one of the most unique and exceptional courses I've taken at Midwestern State University. The course went beyond the typical classroom setting by incorporating an accompanying art exhibition at the **Wichita Falls Museum of Art at MSU** which was co-curated by Dr. Giles, **Danny Bills**, and **Alicia Ward** (English BA 2016). The course challenged us not only on a scholarly level, but artistically as well. True to the Beat Generation spirit, we learned how to make a personal connection with the art and poetry as opposed to just analyzing its "meaning." The course covered a multitude of poets and artists of the Post World War II avant-garde, including Gregory Corso, Frank O'Hara, Robert Motherwell and Jackson Pollock. Through class discussions facilitated by Dr. Giles and art historian **Dr. Ann Marie Leimer**, we were able to extensively study the way in which these artists transcended their world and drastically changed how art and poetry is perceived.

My classmates and I had the opportunity to choose one of the works in the exhibition and

present our own interpretation of the piece, rather than the background of the work or the artist. Through assignments such as this, we were able to uncover the incredible relationship between the art, the poetry and ourselves. The course joined with the exhibition, Dr. Giles' passion for the subject matter, and the power behind the Beat Generation, created one of the most impactful experiences a liberal arts university could offer.

~ Loganne Featherston (English BA)





FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Lodge and **Dr. Schulze** attended special professional development training in the humanities at the Association for Core Texts and Courses—Tradition and Innovation Summer Seminar last year. **Here is Dr. Lodge on the exciting experience...**

On behalf of MSU, I applied for and was awarded an institutional grant to develop our Core Text Great Books courses and new Core Text minor. Dr. Schulze and I attended the two-week seminar at the University of Chicago and Co**lumbia University** in June 2016. These two universities are famous for their highly respected Great Book programs, obligatory for all students beginning in the first year. We studied texts such as Homer's Odyssey, Plato's Symposium, Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics, Machiavelli's The Prince, Shakespeare's King Lear, and Woolf's To the Lighthouse. ACTC and most Great Books programs promote a text- and student-centered approach in a seminar setting. The course I am offering this spring, Great Books on **Morality**, is based in part on what I learned at the seminar last summer. This course, like World Literature I and II and many other courses, counts toward MSU's new interdisciplinary minor in Great Books.

Midwestern State is co-sponsoring ACTC's annual conference in Dallas from April 20th-23rd. Faculty members giving papers include me, **Dr. Donovan Irven**, and **Krista Roscoe**. Students delivering papers include **Yolanda Torres**, **Maureen Trussell**, **Austin Monson**, and **Lane Riggs**.

ACTC also sponsors an annual student conference. The 2017 conference will be held at Concordia University in Irvine, California. Two MSU students' proposals have been accepted: **Brian Zug** on *The Decameron*, and **Serah Welborn** on Ralph Waldo Emerson. The best papers will be published in ACTC's student journal *Agora*.

HUMANITIES PROGRAM



The Humanities program is offering a new introductory to Chinese culture next fall. We are gradually gaining new majors, who usually choose Humanities because they love it! At the same time, ample research has shown that, overall, humanities majors do not earn less than professional majors, especially in the long run. And they are more likely to enjoy their work. As Steve Jobs has said, "It is in Apple's DNA that technology alone is not enough—it's technology married with the liberal arts. married with the humanities, that yields us the results that make our heart sina."

We also have a new minor this year in Great Books. Any course that covers great books in the original to a significant extent can be used toward the major. This includes most English, Philosophy, and Humanities courses. The study of Great Books is an important component of a liberal arts education. providing a thorough background in the history of thought, as well as crucial reading, interpretive, and critical thinking skills.

A SAMPLING OF RECENT NEW COURSE OFFERINGS

<u>Great Books on Morality</u>: This interdisciplinary text- and discussion-based course led by **Dr. Lodge** covers primary texts in literature, philosophy, and political science, including works by Aeschylus, Confucius, Aristotle, Plato, Augustine, Hobbes, Machiavelli, Rousseau, Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, and Tolstoy.

<u>Teaching Professional and Technical Writing</u>: Taught by **Dr. Henschel**, 5213 is an examination of the theory, pedagogy, and practice of teaching technical and professional writing. This is the department's first offering for the new online English Graduate Certificate in Professional and Technical Communication.

<u>Literature of Diverse Voices (Fantasy</u>): In this, the first section of our new Diverse Voices class, **Dr. Fields** is teaching *The Lord of the Rings, Prince Caspian, Miss Peregrine's School for Peculiar Children,* and *Alice in Wonderland/Through the Looking Glass.* Students will write a research paper on any topic relevant to fantasy literature, TV, or film.

<u>The 1980s</u>: Ryan Samuelson (Moffett Library) and **Dr. Giles** explore with students representative American literature and film from the 1980s, a decade fraught with Wall Street greed, Cold War fears, the social and political conservatism of the New Right, conspicuous consumption, and the outbreak of the AIDS and crack epidemics. It was also the decade that launched Cable TV, the Yuppie, MTV, Madonna, New Wave, the Walkman, the personal computer, and teen movies like *The Breakfast Club* and *Pretty in Pink*.

<u>Philosophy of Sex, Love, and Friendship</u>: **Dr. Jun's** new course provides an introduction to the philosophy of sex, love, and friendship from both a theoretical and historical perspective. Particular topics discussed include the existence and nature of love, the complexities of human sexuality, and the ideal and practical realities of friendship.

<u>Academic Research & Writing (The Martian)</u>: Dr. Fields' 1143 class features Andy Weir's novel *The Martian*. Dr. Sarah Cobb (Math) presents on three math-related topics inspired by key passages in the novel, and Dr. Jeff Hood (Math) appears in a number of classes to solicit data from students for statistical analysis of risk-taking in the novel.

<u>The Gilded Age</u>: Students in this interdisciplinary honors seminar taught by **Dr. Martinez** (Economics), **Dr. Jun**, and **Dr. Giles** explore the social, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of the Gilded Age in America from three different disciplinary vantages in order to help students develop a fuller understanding of this important era and to invite critical reflection on the lessons it offers for the present.

Rhetoric of Visuals and Infographics: This theoretical and practical inquiry into visual rhetoric and infographics is taught by **Dr. Henschel**. Students learn how images are used to communicate and persuade; how culture influences the creation, delivery, and interpretation of visual messages; and how this knowledge can be applied to the creation, arrangement, and delivery or display of visual information, data, and evidence.

ARTS & LITERATURE SOCIETY IN FORT WORTH AND OKLAHOMA CITY









Last February the Arts & Literature Society visited the Modern Museum of Art in Fort Worth, as well as a special exhibition of Gustave Caillebotte's works at the Kimble Art Museum. At the time, it was my third visit to the Modern, bringing my attention to the differences between the museum's permanent collection and special exhibits. Visiting both museums during the trip gave us the opportunity to see the changes in art from the Impressionist era of the 1870s to the modern day, creating a living timeline in the

cultural and historical worlds that helped us observe how the paintings themselves and the world around them changed from artistic movements and historical events.

~ Alex Van Allen (History/Humanities BA 2016)





SERAH WELBORN

On Sept. 17, 2016, members of MSU's Arts & Literature Society enjoyed the Oklahoma City Museum of Art's presentation of Matisse in His Time: Masterworks of Modernism from the Center of Pompidou, Paris, a mixed-media menagerie of works by Henri Matisse and his contemporaries. Guided by museum curators, the Society participated in a discussion of modern art as shaped by Cubism and Fauvism in each stage of Matisse's life, comparing his sketches, paintings, and sculpture to those of Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Pablo Picasso. It was a unique experience made sweet by plantain chips and ice cream beside the OKC Riverwalk, coffee and cookies at an evening cafe, and a brief mid-September rain.

ENGLISH MASTER'S AT MSU

Across the US, reading, writing, and thinking have proven to be key skills sought in new-hires. What is more, the investigation of literature and of communication nourishes the mind in ways basic to the liberal—and, thus, liberating—arts. Consequently, MSU students considering graduate school should weigh the benefits offered by Midwestern's MA program in English. Our curriculum focuses on the individual's needs, offers three redesigned degree tracks, and is energized by professors available to assist students at every stage of their progress. Recent thesis projects have included a cyberpunk novel, a biographical fiction elaborating the history of a famous Fort Worth neighborhood, an analysis of film adaptations of the novels of Jane Austen, and a

rigorous examination of later work from Vladimir Nabokov (a thesis now representing MSU in a national competition). Please drop by to speak with me about your future studies in English and how our program can help you reach your goals.

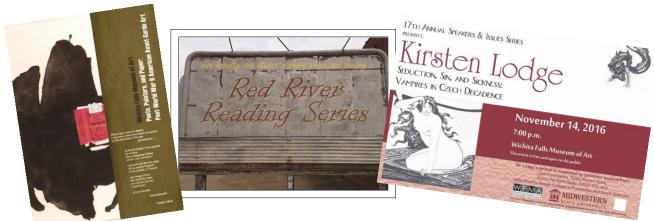
We are pleased to welcome the following new students to our graduate program:

Jonathan Henderson, Carlena Kundert,
Jenn Sidlauskus, Ginger Spiller, Ali
Ward, Melissa Laussmann, Lisa
Moore, and Kimberly

Long. Welcome, all!

~ Dr. Robert Johnson





Questions or Comments? Contact Us

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Arts & Literature members at Moby Dick opera simulcast