



New Classes Spring 2014

Prof. Kristen Garrison is offering a new dual-listed class this spring called “Unruly Women: An Introduction to Feminist Rhetorical Theory and Criticism.” Using Laurel Thatcher Ulrich’s *Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History* as a springboard, this course explores theories and critical lenses of feminist rhetoric and applies them to key feminist texts of the Western tradition.

Prof. Todd Giles’s new undergraduate course, “Post-World War II American Literature and Art,” coincides with the Wichita Falls Museum of Art’s Robert Rauschenberg exhibition this spring. Students will read novels such as *Catch-22*, *The Dharma Bums*, and *Slaughterhouse-Five*, as well as explore Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art firsthand at The Modern Art Museum in Fort Worth and the WFMA. Related to the class, Prof. Giles will give a book talk during National Library Week in April at Moffett Library on his rare Beat Generation collection.

Year in Review

Friends and colleagues,

It is with great pride and pleasure that Professor Sally Henschel and I present you with the first volume of *The Quill & Tassel*, the English Department’s new biannual newsletter. Even at the most cursory of glances, one can’t help but recognize the impressive level of scholarly production over the last year in the fields of literary studies, rhetoric, and technical writing by not only faculty but also graduate and undergraduate students alike. Indeed, last year saw four undergraduate and five graduate student conference presentations, the publication of three book reviews by graduate students, five peer-reviewed faculty articles and one book chapter, as well as the publication of books by two of our distinguished tenured faculty, Professors Hoggard and Jun. Honors likewise abounded in 2013 for English, Philosophy, and Humanities faculty and students, including the awarding of two EURECA fellowships during the inaugural semester of MSU’s new campus-wide undergraduate research program. This semester Professors Henschel and Jun also join the EURECA ranks.

As we excitedly prepare to welcome two new faculty colleagues to our department, we also acknowledge the retirement of two of MSU’s most prestigious faculty, Professors James and Lynn Hoggard, both life-long proponents of the arts and humanities who made their careers here at Midwestern State. Their insight, innovation, and promotion of the arts will be greatly missed across campus. We also prepare to bid farewell to several of our top undergraduate and graduate students who will be moving on to competitive graduate programs throughout the county next semester. Way to go, guys!

Our primary goal with the first issue of *The Quill & Tassel* is to share all of this great news; subsequent issues will provide a little more aesthetic pizzazz. I encourage you to email me your news throughout the year—pictures and organization logos are also welcome. If your name appears here, pat yourself on the back; you deserve it!

Todd Giles
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COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
at Midwestern State University

Accolades

Lindsey Applegarth (English MA candidate) was inducted into the **Golden Key Honors Society** in September 2013.

Prof. Sally Henschel received the **Society for Technical Communication Distinguished Special Interest Group Service Award**, and the Academic SIG Administrative Council on which she serves received a Community of Excellence Award, May 2013.

Prof. Nathan Jun was awarded **Tenure** effective May 2013. Congrats, Nathan!

Anna Lerew-Phillips (English MA candidate) will be inducted into **Sigma Tau Chi**, the honors society of the **Society for Technical Communication**, this spring.

Melissa Nivens defended her dissertation proposal on Friday, November 15 at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Her work is titled "Domestic Literacy: Situating Composition Studies within the Discipline of Home Economics."

Brittany Norman (English MA candidate) and Prof. James Pennebaker (Chair of Psychology at University of Texas) had their research cited in an October 7, 2013 *Wall Street Journal* column titled "What Saying 'I' Says About You."
<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304626104579121371885556170>

Kerris Shillingford (Special Education), **Roylyka Roache** (English), and **Sean Pinkos** (English and History) were inducted into **Alpha Chi**, the international honor society, in November 2013. Their proud faculty sponsors were **Professors Garrison, Giles** and **Henschel**, respectively.



Undergraduate English major Kalynn Smith talks about Prof. Garrison's Fall 2013 *Femme Fatale* class.

Head of the Class

Studying the construct of the *femme fatale* through the American cultural lens is one of the most rewarding areas of study in an English course one can encounter at MSU. As with most universities, many of the English courses offered primarily handle genres and theories in their entirety; it is quite rare to study a specific component of the rhetorical process at the college level. However, Prof. Garrison's *Femme Fatale* course allows students to hone their analytical abilities in regard to the dynamic nature and epistemological value of dangerous women within the genre of detective fiction. The class reflects the pace and intrigue of the genre so prone to film adaptations (which are studied in the course alongside their novel inspirations). For future students she intends on broadening the course readings, which will provide them with the pleasure of interpretation across cultures and genres.



Publications

Megan Baird (English MA candidate). Rev. of *Going Back to Galveston: Nature, Funk, and Fantasy in a Favorite Place* by Jimmie Killingsworth. *Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas* 44 (Nov. 2013):67-68.

Chase Eddington (English MA candidate). Rev. of *Buying America from the Indians: Johnson v. McIntosh and the history of Native Land Rights* by Blake Watson. *Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas* 44 (Nov. 2013): 71-72.



Prof. Garrison. "‘To Supply this Deficiency’: Margaret Fuller’s Boston Conversations as Hybrid Rhetorical Practice." *Rhetoric, History, and Women’s Oratorical Education: American Women Learn to Speak*. Eds. David Gold and Catherine Hobbs. New York: Routledge, 2013.

Prof. Greg Giddings. "The Love Song of Larry J. McMurtry: *The Last Picture Show*." *Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas* 44 (Nov. 2013): 57-64. The essay can be read online at Center and Main: Stories from the Heart of McMurtry Country: <http://centerandmain.org/the-love-song-of-larry-j-mcmurtry/>



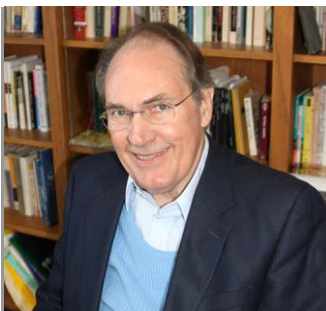
Prof. Giles. "‘No Permanent Home’: The Five *Skandhas* and Philip Whalen’s ‘The Slop Barrel.’" *Philosophy and Literature* 37.2 (Oct. 2013): 405-420.

Heidi Hakimi-Hood (MA 2013). Rev. of *Telling Stories in the Face of Danger: Language Renewal in Native American Communities* by Paul V. Kroskrity. *Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas* 44 (Nov.2013): 68-69.

Prof. Henschel

- "Current State of U.S. Undergraduate Degree Programs in Technical and Professional Communication." *Technical Communication* 60.1 (2013): 45-64. Co-authored with Lisa Meloncon.

- "STC Student Membership: Challenges, Opportunities, and Benefits." *Intercom* Jan. 2013: 31-33. Coauthored with Craig Baehr.



Prof. James Hoggard. *The Devil’s Fingers & Other Personal Essays*. San Antonio: Wings Press, 2013.

Prof. Jun

- "Rethinking the Anarchist Canon: History, Philosophy, and Interpretation." *Anarchist Developments in Cultural Studies* 3:1 (Summer 2013): 82-116

- *Without Borders or Limits: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Anarchist Studies* (co-edited with Jorell Melendez). Cambridge Scholars Press, 2013.



Presentations

Lindsey Applegarth

- "Tolstoy on Anarchism and Buddhism." NAASN. New Orleans, LA. 5 Jan. 2013.
- "Border-Identities Bridging Binaries in Jorge Amado's *War of the Saints*." Clash Zones: Identities in (R)evolution Conference. MIT. Cambridge, MA. 6 Apr. 2013.

Ginger Bartush (English BA candidate). "Accepting the Chaotic: A Search for Identity in Don DeLillo's *White Noise*." American Studies Association of Texas. Baylor University. Waco, TX. 16 Nov. 2013.



Ruth Fitzgerald Black (English BA 2013). "An English Major at the Tech. Com. Table." Society for Technical Communication Academic SIG 2013 Partnership Pre-Conference. University of Cincinnati. Oct. 2013.

Prof. Peter Fields. "From *The Wife's Lament* to Dickens's *The Old Curiosity Shop*: Martyr Women for a Sentimental Faith." Rocky Mountain MLA. Vancouver, WA. Oct. 2013.

Prof. Henschel. "Facilitating Connections and Mentoring Opportunities between Practitioners and Students." Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication Conference. University of Cincinnati. Oct. 2013. Prof. Henschel also chaired the panel "Facilitating New Beginnings: Building, Branding, and Enhancing a Regional University's Professional Writing Program."



Amber Hunsaker and Megan Baird (English MA candidates). "Extreme Makeover: Writing Center Edition." South Central Writing Centers Association. Corpus Christi, TX. 23 Feb. 2013.

Prof. Jun. "On Philosophical Anarchism." Northeastern Political Science Association Conference. Philadelphia, PA. 14 Nov. 2013.

Anna Lerew-Phillips and Prof. Henschel. "Coaching Online: STC's Emerging Virtual Professional-to-Student Mentoring Programs." Society for Technical Communication Summit '13. Atlanta, GA. May 2013.



Prof. Lodge. "History, Rhetoric, and Tragedy in Thucydides: Brilliant Irony in the 'Archaeology.'" Association of Core Texts and Courses. Ottawa, Canada. Apr. 2013. Prof. Lodge also chaired the panel "Language and the Inexpressible."

Sarah Muschiol (English BA candidate). "Ishmael Reed's *Mumbo Jumbo*: A Creation of a Time Pendulum." American Studies Association of Texas. Baylor University. Waco, TX. 16 Nov. 2013.

Cody Parish (English BA candidate). "'The Young Person's Guide' to *Moonrise Kingdom*: Wes Anderson's Theme and Variations on a Theme and Variations of Benjamin Britten." American Studies Association of Texas. Baylor University. Waco, TX. 16 Nov. 2013.



Faculty-Student Research

Prof. Giles, along with English undergraduates **Ginger Bartush**, **Sarah Muschiol**, and **Cody Parish**, presented their **EURECA** research at a special panel at the **American Studies Association of Texas** annual conference at Baylor on Nov. 16th. Ginger, Sarah, and Cody were the first undergraduates to present in this professional conference's fifty-seven year history. Congrats, guys!

Becky Green and her READ 4253 students presented "The Annotation Revolution" at the **TAIR Conference** at MSU in March 2013. ELAR students included Jarod Grigg, Taylor Baggett, Kat Black, Dusti Cribbs, Savannah Parker, Jamison Routson, Courtney Haney, Chelsee Evans, Michelle Sutton, Rachael Krysmann, Linda Evans, Hannah Segura and, Devon Reynolds.

Prof. Lodge and History major **John Tucker** worked together on the introduction for her new translation of *Notes from the Underground* for Broadview Press for their **EURECA** project in the fall. Prof. Lodge's scholarly introduction will include primary source materials translated from French and Russian that help to situate the work in its historical, literary, and philosophical context.



Other News

The Arts and Literature Society traveled to OKC in August for the annual Red Earth Pow-wow, the largest pow-wow in the United States. In the spring MSU was visited by Kirt Nessett, who came from Pennsylvania to read his poetry and hold a creative writing workshop. Arts and Lit students also got a special backstage tour of Fain Auditorium before the fall performance of *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

Lindsey Applegarth guest-lectured eight times in 2013 in various philosophy courses taught by **Prof. Jun**, including topics such as "Buddhist Philosophy on Sunyata (Emptiness)," "What is Art? What is Beauty?" and "Is Capital Punishment Ethical?"

Betty Carroll is working with the **Avatar** program with Region IX to promote "building a bridge" between high schools and colleges. They are planning an English Language Arts conference in February of 2014 in which teachers will share their ideas, their strengths, and their weaknesses. As one of the keynote speakers, **Prof.**

Tom Hoffman will discuss the challenges facing Texas English teachers in his address titled "Bridge over Troubled Waters."

Prof. Giddings wrapped up his year as the president of the **American Studies Association of Texas** this fall.

Prof. Henschel served on the program committees for the **STC Academic Partnership Pre-Conference**; the **Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication Conference**; and for the **Society for Technical Communication Summit '13**, she coordinated the national Student Research Poster Competition.

Prof. Hoffman visited fifteen area high schools over the last fifteen months to promote our department and the study of literature. He spoke to 3,878 students and 405 teachers and administrators about the value of studying writing and literature.



James Hoggard, *The Devil's Fingers & Other Personal Essays*. San Antonio: Wings Press, 2013.

Review by Prof. Fields

Book Review

Jim is well-known as a poet (*Wearing the River* and *Triangles of Light: The Edward Hopper Poems*), as a translator of notable Latin American poets (Oscar Hahn and Raúl Mesa, among others) and, of course, as one of the great story-tellers of the modern Texas experience (e.g., *Trotter Ross*, *Elevator Man*, *Patterns of Illusion*, and *The Mayor's Daughter*). But we should not over-look the special power and charisma of his nonfiction essays which are really autobiography—documented moments from a life spent challenging himself to go to the next level of endurance. At every turn, unexpected fellowship with nature and people is the revelatory outcome.

The titular essay, for instance, refers to natural desert formations where Jim coped with a broken femur under the harshest imaginable desert conditions. Throughout these essays, we are up close to Jim's predilection for accepting daunting physical challenges including wild mountain streams that can drown the careless fly fisher or the between-town lonely treks on his bicycle that are necessary for anyone contemplating the aptly-named annual competition Hotter 'n Hell Hundred. Jim does not distinguish between soul and body, mind and flesh. He presents his own predicaments as acts of will and his body is not so much an instrument or separate from him as it is the ironic topography of his fortunes in this world. If he were a Church Father, he would have called these essays *Against Dualism*. These glimpses into his actual true-life adventures reinforce a profound, interchangeable relation between mind and body, person and environment. Every exertion of will amid or against nature stands revealed, ultimately, as fellowship with something or someone like himself.

The killdeer bird which, like a road-runner, seems to keep pace with Jim on his bicycle, the crazy old men who eye him warily at the Electra Dairy Queen, the sensitive feelings of children and family relations ill at ease with one another (until they come together in the mountains of New Mexico), the unexpected turn at the end of a rainy street in old Havana or Paris, the kindred spirit in that brother of Aeschylus who tried single-handily to drag a ship to shore (under siege of arrows and spears), his own wandering of the ruins of Nineveh, and all the menacing, even possibly murderous figures (like the Texas linemen hovering above him on telephone poles and up to no good as he labors below them) whom he has encountered in his storied life—all seem somehow connected together, warp and woof of one single cloth of life in this world. Jim gives us back his universe not in disarray, but rather as continuous somehow with his own thoughtful, wry humored personality, not alien or adversarial beyond what he chooses it to be. After all, he and chaos are friends. The trick is to keep a sense of humor. Even the most snarling denizen of the harsh, unknown world sometimes turns out to be a friend or an ally. Jim is a friend to the world even if it nearly drowns him, stings him, menaces him, socks him a good one, or, as the case may be, tries to cook him in the August heat. He has a little smile. He's going to overcome a distance and close a rift. The stranger is revealed as someone we already knew—or should have known. Everything is going to be all right—and we might just have a little fun.

Where are they now?

Philosophy Minors:

Katie McDaniel (2012) is pursuing an MA in Public History at Colorado State University.

Christopher Stolarzyk (2011) completed an MA in Political Science at George Washington University.

Christopher Caruvana (2011) is pursuing a PhD in Mathematics at the University of North Texas.

Jason Baber (2010) completed an MA in history from the University of Texas at Dallas.

English Majors:

Ashley Campana (MA 2013), whose thesis is titled "Questioning Questions in the Writing Center: The Space between Dialogue and Collaboration," is currently teaching in the department as a full-time instructor.

Heidi Hakimi-Hood (MA 2013) is pursuing her PhD at Texas Christian University.

Breanne Sill (BA 2013) is pursuing her MA at SUNY Buffalo. Her comparative thesis explores bio-political theology in Pagan Decadent literature of the Victorian and English Modern eras.

Breanne and Adam Henson (BA 2011) plan to wed on October 31, 2015. Congrats guys!