

DR. HOFFMAN TO RETIRE AFTER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE



Dr. Hoffman at City View 2014

I first met Tom in 1992. I served on the Faculty Senate my first few years here and he was the Faculty Senate President at the time. Looking back, he demonstrated considerable patience with such a young whippersnapper.

Tom encouraged me to participate in the College Bowl program which was led by Dr. Jeff Campbell in ENGL and to become familiar with the Texas Association of College Teachers (TACT). I followed his sage advice on both counts, and have always been grateful for it. In 2000, the College of Liberal Arts (now the Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences) was birthed. The COLA merged what had previously been three separate academic divisions. Tom, and other senior faculty members at the time, embraced the reorganization and made the transition much easier than it could have been. In 2004, I became dean of the college, and Tom and I fashioned a new dynamic in our professional relationship.

I have long admired and respected the passion Tom brings to work every day. He deeply cares about his students, his teaching, and the well-being of Midwestern State University. I haven't seen that passion or caring diminish one iota in the close to 24 years I have known him, and I believe both are as strong today as when he began his unprecedented career here as a faculty member 50 years ago. We should all be so fortunate to have the remarkable tenure and professional life that Tom Hoffman has had. I wish him and Becky a long and happy retirement together.

~ Dr. Samuel Watson



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## GIDDINGS TALKS HOFFMAN

When Dr. Thomas Hoffman retires this summer, he will have served Midwestern State University for fifty years—truly a remarkable achievement. During this half century, Dr. Hoffman has had one clear focus: to consistently and enthusiastically share his passion for literature.

And Dr. Hoffman has been inordinately successful in sharing this passion. Frequently, when a new acquaintance of mine learns that I teach in MSU's English Department, he or she asks about Dr. Hoffman. When I mention that he is still going strong, the former student almost always praises Dr. Hoffman's teaching, usually effusively.

For instance, a few months ago, I played golf with Dennis Barnes, a Dallas businessman who attended MSU in the late seventies. Dennis told me that he considered Dr. Hoffman's classes to be life changing: "I remember vividly how his classes brought literature alive for me, and it stoked a passion in me for reading that has continued throughout my life." High praise indeed.

Here at the end of a long and exemplary teaching career, I encourage any of you who had the pleasure of taking one of Dr. Hoffman's classes to drop by and express your appreciation to a professor who has clearly changed lives and had an extraordinary impact on his students.

~ Dr. Greg Giddings

## *Colleagues Honor Dr. Hoffman's Legacy*

### DEBBIE BARROW ON DR. HOFFMAN



I first met Dr. Tom Hoffman in August 1975; he, the entertaining professor in my Survey of American Literature course, and I, the 18-year-old business and theatre student still trying to find herself. Little did I know we would remain connected during the next 40 years.

Since beginning my professional career at MSU in May 1979, I have had the opportunity to get to know Dr. Hoffman (yes, it's still impossible for me to call him Tom) on a personal and professional level. He knew my husband, Bob, from his association with Backdoor Theatre and later gave Bob his start in the real estate business in the mid-1980s. Additionally, he was always one of our biggest cheerleaders as Bob and I performed

and later Bob directed plays in the local community. At MSU I worked closely with Dr. Hoffman during his service as Faculty Senate chair and president of the Texas Association of College Teachers. One of my fondest memories of working with him was when he orchestrated a surprise luncheon honoring our then president, Dr. Louis J. Rodriguez.

It won't be the same at MSU without Dr. Hoffman, but I know life has great things in store for him and Becky. Our mutual dear friend, Lou Rodriguez, signed almost every piece of correspondence with the phrase "best wishes for continued success." That is my wish for you, Dr. Hoffman!



## NEW FACULTY & STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Dr. Giles and Cody Parish** (English BA 2014). “‘The Young Person’s Guide’ to *Moonrise Kingdom*: Wes Anderson’s Theme and Variations on a Theme and Variations of Benjamin Britten.” *Popular Culture Review* 26.2 (Summer 2015): 41-54.

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

**Dr. Jun, Dr. Yvonne Franke and Dr. Friederike Wiedemann** translators. *What Does Syndicalism Want? Living, Not Dead Unions*. By Max Baginski. London: Kate Baginski Library, 2015.

**Dr. Jun.** “Come Let Us Reason Together.” *L’Université: Essai de Tou Dire*. Eds. Dalie Giroux and Dimitrios Karmis. Ottawa: Le Cahiers de l’Idiote, 2015. 121-128.

**Dr. Jun.** “Political Theory and History: The Case of Anarchism.” *The Journal of Political Ideologies* 20.3 (2015): 244-262.

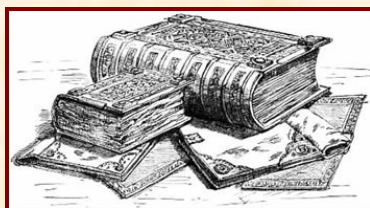
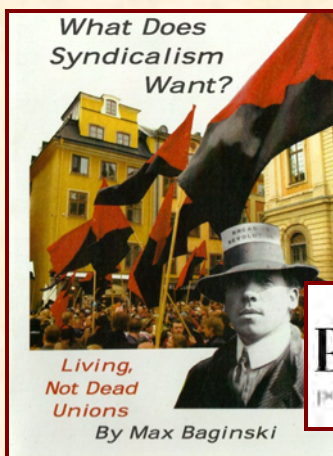
**Dr. Jun.** “The Current State of Anarchist Studies in France: An Interview.” *Anarchist Developments in Cultural Studies* 1 (2014).

**Dr. Lodge.** Review of *Stargorod: A Novel in Many Voices*, by Peter Aleshkovsky. *Slavic and East European Journal* 59.3 (Fall 2015): 463-64.

**Dr. Lodge.** Review of *A Short Tale of Shame*, by Angel Igov. *Slavic and East European Journal* 59.2 (Summer 2015): 324-25.

**Dr. Lodge.** Translator of “Soldiers Point,” “Life is Elsewhere,” and “[Parting, practicing parting].” By Štěpán Nosek. *BODY: Poetry, Prose, Word*. Nov. 11, 2015.

**Melissa Taitano** (English BA). “Landscape of Change: An Ecocritical View of Willa Cather’s *My Antonia*.” *Agora: Journal for Undergraduate Scholarly Papers* 24 (Spring 2015).





## ACCOLADES

**Erica Bourland** (English BA) won Second Place for her essay titled “Bridging the Gap: Young Adult Literature in Action” at **Moffett Library’s Second Annual Library Research Awards Contest**. **Third Place** went to **Andrea Mendoza-Lespron** (English BA) for “Using Enthusiasm to Engage Students in Reading.” Congrats, ladies!

**Dr. Giles** was awarded an **Intramural Research and Creative Endeavors Award** from MSU’s Office of Sponsored Programs and Research for “Poets, Painters, and Paper: Post-World War II American Avant-Garde Art,” an art exhibit he will be co-curating with Danny Bills at the **Wichita Falls Museum of Art at MSU** in the Fall of 2016. Dr. Giles is working on the project with **Alicia Ward**, an English BA student.

**Dr. Giles** also had the honor of delivering the keynote address at the Spring 2015 **EURECA** kick-off dinner on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Dr. Lodge** received a certificate of completion for **Infusing Chinese Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum**, issued by the Asian Studies Development Program of the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu for a two-week Institute, including a final project, Aug. 2015.

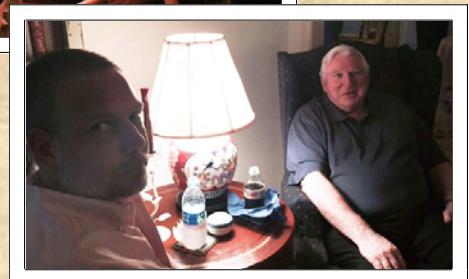
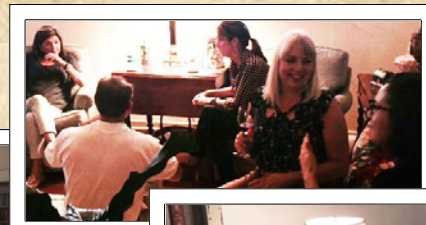
**Dr. Lodge’s** recent translation of ***A Gothic Soul*** by Jiří Karásek ze Lvovic received a lengthy and glowing review in London’s *Times Literary Supplement*. Congrats, Dr. Lodge!

**Alicia Ward** (English BA) and **Jonathan Henderson** (Humanities BA) won the Best Poster award for the Prothro-Yeager College Humanities and Social Sciences at the 2015 Fall **Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum** for their work with **Dr. Lodge** on her translation of *The Death of Ivan Ilyich and Other Stories*.



*Dr. Lodge and Andrea Mendoza-Lespron, Moffett Library*

## DR. RANKIN’S FALL SEMESTER KICK-OFF PARTY



## PRESENTATIONS

**Ms. Carroll** and **Dr. Nivens** presented a workshop on August 6<sup>th</sup> at Region IX. The workshop was designed for area high school English teachers and supported the implementation of new language arts state curriculum standards.

**Dr. Fields** presented "'Our Heavenly Mother Jesus': The Philosophy of the Late Medieval anchoress Julian of Norwich" as part of **The Stewart-King Lecture Series** at MSU on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Fields also presented "Why was Beowulf not yet Doomed" at **Rocky Mountain MLA**, Oct. 8, 2015, and participated in a roundtable honoring the late **Dr. James King** (MSU History professor), Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, in San Marcos at Texas State University.

**Dr. Garrison** and **Allison Douglass** (English MA 2015) presented "On Women Making Women's History: Interrogating Assumptions, Suspending Expectations" at the 10th biennial **Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference** in Tempe, AZ on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. This presentation marked the first stage of an ongoing feminist archival recovery project.

**Dr. Giddings** presented "Larry Brown's *Joe* vs. David Gordon Green's Film: A Contrast in Masculinities" at the **American Studies Association of Texas** conference at Sam Houston State University on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Dr. Giles** also presented at the **ASAT** conference on the 14th; his paper was titled "Space Monkeys, Haiku, and Emptiness: The Misguided Zen of *Fight Club*." On Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Giles moderated "From Campus to Community: (Re)Valuing the Liberal Arts and Sciences in the Twenty-First Century" in Shawnee Theatre as part of the 2015-16 Faculty Form program. Joining Dr. Giles were **Dr. Jun** and **Dr. Lodge**, as well as **Dr. Capps** (Interim Dean, Billie Doris McAda Graduate School), **Dr. Johnston** (Dean, Robert D. and Carol Gunn College of Health Sciences and Human Services), **Dr. Leimer** (Chair, Juanita and Ralph Harvey School of the Visual Arts) and **Dr. Watson** (Assistant Professor of Biology).

**Dr. Henschel** presented "The Place for TPC in the New Texas Core Curriculum" at the **Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association** convention in Santa Fe on Oct. 9th.

**Dr. Jun** presented "Anarchism and Radical Democracy" at the 111<sup>th</sup> annual **American Political Science Association** conference in San Francisco on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Jun also presented "Some Problems with Contemporary Anarchist Political Theory and Intellectual History" at the **Northeastern Political Science Association** conference on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. While there, he convened a panel on "Contemporary Anarchist Thought: Philosophy, Politics, and Social Movement Theory."

**Dr. Nivens** presented "Farm to Table: Home Management Houses as Rhetorical Space for Women" at the **East Texas Historical Association** fall meeting in Nacogdoches on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>. **Dr. Nivens** also presented "A Literacy Legacy: The Literacy Narrative of my Grandmother" at the **Feminisms and Rhetorics** conference in Tempe, AZ on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Hannah Redder** (English MA) presented "River Stories: The Brazos and Cultural Identity in Knox County, Texas" at the **American Studies Association of Texas** conference on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Dr. Schulze** also presented "Fertile Ground: An Exploration of the German-American Internment Experience during WWII" at the **ASAT** conference on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Schulze read from his novel on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> to a full house at the **Wichita Falls Museum of Art at MSU**.

## ASAT Conference Nov. 2015



*Clint Wagoner and Hannah Redder*



*Dr. Greg Giddings*



*Dr. John Schulze*



*Dr. Todd Giles*





# SIGMA TAU DELTA

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY



*Volunteering at Habitat for Humanity and the Food Bank*

## Former Sigma Tau Volunteer Coordinator on MSU and her new Master's Program

My three years in Midwestern State University's English Department brought me invaluable relationships with classmates and professors that, in turn, brought unique opportunities. From helping me participate in EURECA to being the reason I was awarded Junior Woman of the Year (2013-2014), MSU and its small yet loving English Department gave me the surroundings I needed in order to prove my potential to others as well as myself. And, of course, there were all of the great experiences with Sigma Tau Delta!

My experiences here gave me the courage to apply to Graduate Publishing Programs at Emerson College, New York University, and George Washington University. And, with the help of beautiful recommendations from my professors, I was accepted into all three.

When I walk around Emerson College or head to my internships, I *know* that I have MSU and everyone in the English department to thank for where I am now. No other place could have given me the atmosphere I needed to succeed. No other school could have had the time to get to know and appreciate the passion within me that I was always too shy to show. No other department could be home for me...and I'm so glad to have made mine throughout the halls of Bea Wood.

~ Danielle Schwertner



## SIGMA TAU VOLUNTEERS AT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

November 2015 marked a return of **Sigma Tau Delta** to volunteering at **Habitat for Humanity** in Wichita Falls after a hiatus of several years. In days of yore, we spackled, hammered, painted, dry-walled, insulated, and shingled at a number of Habitat sites. Last fall, Emily McDonald contacted Chris De La Garza, Habitat's local Director of Volunteer Services and Church Relations, and arranged for MSU Sigma Tau Delta to volunteer on back-to-back Saturdays at 700 Dallas Street. Saturday morning, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, was especially productive with Lisa Moore, Faith Munoz, Emily McDonald, Serah Welborn, and Roylyka Roache on hand to install the plywood for the home's entire roof. Habitat site-supervisor Greg has his back to the camera and works next to Dr. Fields.



Fall 2015 Write-In

## NEW WRITING CENTER LOCATION

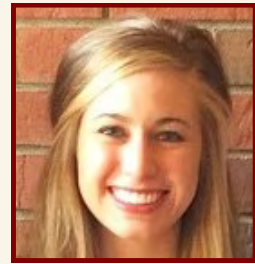
How do we love our new space? Let us count the ways... On August 31<sup>st</sup>, we cut the figurative ribbon on our new Writing Center space in 201 Prothro-Yeager. 482 tutoring sessions later, an exhausted crew of seven tutors and three interns put up the “Closed for Winter Break” sign. In addition to nearly 500 face-to-face sessions (a 40% increase from last fall), we conducted almost 40 online submissions (100% increase!) and several classroom visits that reached nearly 1000 students (a jaw-dropping 500% increase). Clearly, our new space has good mojo.

Yes, the tutors are worn slick. But they're recovering well and will be ready to fire up the Keurig for the spring semester, ready to provide honest, careful feedback to writers who seek to hone their skills. So much more than a mere “service,” the work MSU tutors perform lies at the very heart of a liberal arts education: they model for their peers what it means to think, question, write, and rewrite. Their experience as peer tutors has obvious benefits for MSU students, but it also has potential to benefit faculty. Having mastered, or at least practiced, the art of navigating the academy, Writing Center tutors know a good—or a bad—assignment when they see one. Just as tutors guide students' efforts to create effective responses, they can guide teachers' efforts to craft clear, detailed writing prompts, the kinds of prompts that might even make for happier writers—and readers.

The Writing Center is open from 9am to 4pm, Monday through Thursday for walk-in visits starting Monday, January 25. Faculty interested in scheduling a classroom visit should complete the web form found on the Writing Center website, [www.mwsu.edu/writingcenter](http://www.mwsu.edu/writingcenter). Faculty interested in having an assignment review should go to the Writing Center.

~ Dr. Kristen Garrison

## WRITING CENTER TUTOR HANNAH REDDER



I think I can speak for the other tutors when I say that working in MSU's Writing Center is endlessly rewarding. I often find that I learn just as much as I teach. Because our mission is to help students improve their writing rather than simply edit it, it isn't enough to know intuitively that a comma doesn't belong in a certain place or that a student should use “that” instead of “which.” As a result, I've engaged in many self-taught grammar lessons in the past few months and, even more frequently, peer-taught lessons. (More than once has another tutor patiently explained some mystical element of APA style to me.) This collaborative spirit extends quite naturally into sessions, and it is here—in the hour-long marathon sessions, the “aha!” moments, the “A” paper brought in by a grateful student—that we reap most clearly the rewards of doing work we love.





## ENGLISH MASTER'S AT MSU



MSU's **Arts & Literature Society** had the privilege of attending the **Wichita Falls Symphony Orchestra's** backstage party following their season opener with *Cirque de la Symphonie*. Students met members of the internationally recognized troupe, as well as members of the orchestra, WFSO staff, and the Maestro, Dr. Candler Schaffer. Thanks to the WFSO for making this wonderful opportunity possible!

Seniors considering graduate school would do well to think about the benefits offered by Midwestern's MA program in English. Reading, writing, thinking—in recent years, all 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. Most importantly, our program has a long-established record of individualizing the graduate experience, and professors are available to meet with students at every stage of earning the degree. Recent thesis projects have included a cyber-punk novel, a biographical fiction elaborating the history of a famous Fort Worth neighborhood, an analysis of film adaptations of the novels of Jane Austen, a rigorous examination of later work from Vladimir Nabokov, and a distillation of Buddhist elements in a series of women's political autobiographies.



~ **Dr. Robert Johnson**  
robert.johnson@mwsu.edu.



*Arts & Lit members at the WFSO backstage party, Oct. 10, 2015*



### Questions or Comments? Contact Us

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*Faith Munoz & Arielle Martin reading during Banned Books Week*