“I was once a graduate student in Victorian literature, and I believe as the Victorian novelists did, that a novel isn’t simply a vehicle for private expression, but that it also exists for social examination. I firmly believe this”

— Margaret Atwood
BIG NEWS

William Finnegan (MFA 1978) won the Pulitzer Prize for Autobiography with *Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life*. He will read at Shakespeare & Co. in Missoula on May 26th, 2016 from 8-9pm.

Amy Ratto-Parks (MFA 2004; Ed. D. 2015) won the 2016 Phi Beta Kappa Arts & Sciences Poetry Contest for her poem *Verb of Being*, a reverie on Latin class.

Mandy Smoker Broaddus (MFA 2003) was appointed by Barack Obama to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.
Welcome to Spring 2016!
The English Department had a very productive year filled with notable accomplishments in publications, awards, and special events.

In August, our department welcomed Professor Erin Wecker as the new Director of Composition. In November, we welcomed Laura Jones as the new Administrative Associate.

In November, the department co-sponsored Professor Margery Garber, a distinguished guest speaker for the 2015-2016 President’s Lecture Series. A well-known public commentator on literature and literary theory, Professor Garber is Harvard University’s William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English. Professor Garber presented “Shakespeare 451: Shakespeare, Ray Bradbury, and Humanities Teaching Today.” Her lecture also served as an introduction to “First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare,” a traveling exhibition from the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., that will be on our campus May 13 through May 31.

This semester, we hosted the “Writing at Work Conference” and co-sponsored the “Big Sky Documentary Film Festival”, the “Institute for Health and Humanities”, and the Irish Studies Fulbright Scholar—Dr. David Fleming. This summer, Montana Writing Project will host “Worlds Apart but Not Strangers: Holocaust Education and Indian Education For All”, a one-week institute sponsored by the Holocaust Educators Network.

At the end of this semester, we celebrate the stellar career of Greg Pape, the 2007-2009 Montana Poet Laureate. Professor Pape will be retiring after 29 years of teaching in our department.

The English Department is a vibrant and vital part of the University and the College of Humanities and Sciences. We are essential to the “heart and soul” of the University.

As you read this newsletter, you will learn about the many achievements of our faculty, staff, and students. I hope you enjoy our newsletter. Please keep in touch with us. We always enjoy hearing about your accomplishments.

Sincerely,
Beverly Ann Chin, Chair
After 29 years of teaching Creative Writing in the English Department, Professor Greg Pape is retiring. He earned his B.A. in English at Fresno State College, his M.A. in English at California State University in Fresno, and his M.F.A. in Creative Writing at the University of Arizona. In 1987, Professor Pape joined the Creative Writing Program to teach poetry and attained the rank of Professor in 1994.

Professor Pape is a prolific writer with eleven books of poetry. His work appears in an extensive list of literary anthologies and prestigious periodicals. Garrison Keiller has read several of Professor Pape's poems on NPR's *The Writer's Almanac*.

As a teacher, Professor Pape enjoys mentoring undergraduates and graduates as they learn the craft of poetry. Students value his enthusiasm and expertise; they also praise his commitment in helping them revise, experiment, and reflect on their writing process.

Throughout his distinguished career, Professor Pape received numerous honors and awards, including the Robert Frost Fellowship in Poetry (1978), the Pushcart Prize XIII (1988), The Richard Hugo Memorial Poetry Award (1990), The Edwin Ford Piper Poetry Award (1991), the Vachel Lindsay Poetry Award (2002), and the Crab Orchard Open Competition Award (2004). He was nominated for the Pushcart Prize several times. In 2007 through 2009, Professor Pape had the honor of being Montana Poet Laureate and traveled the state, visiting communities and sharing the power and beauty of poetry.

Professor Pape also served the department, university, and community in important ways. He was Director of the Creative Writing Program (1994-1995), a Director of the Academy of American Poets College Prize at UM, and a Judge for the Jacob K. Javits Graduate Fellowship Program.

We applaud the outstanding accomplishments of Professor Greg Pape and wish him well as he transitions to retirement. A retirement party will be held for Professor Pape at the English Department Picnic.
In August, Dr. Erin Wecker joined the English Department as an Assistant Professor and the Director of Composition. Professor Wecker holds a B.A. in English with a minor in Native American Studies from Montana State University, an M.A. in Irish Studies from Boston College, and a Ph.D. in Composition and Rhetoric from the University of New Hampshire. Her teaching and research interests include Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy (RCL), Feminist Research, Studies of Gender and Sexuality in Rhetoric and Composition, Indigenous and Survivance Rhetorics, Irish Studies, Basic Writing Pedagogy, Bridge and Transitional Programs, Trauma Narratives, Second Language Writing, and Cultural Studies.

Professor Wecker is a member of Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), the Coalition of Women Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the Rhetoric Society of America. She was named a member of the CCCC Committee on Diversity, which “is charged to promote and support ongoing dialogues about diversity and difference in all aspects of teaching, graduate study, professional hiring and development, and research on rhetoric, writing, and literacy. This committee has a particular but not exclusive charge to address the concerns and problems of racial diversity in the rhetoric and composition community.”

In October she presented a paper, “Rum Dame of the Tippling House: Bajan Women as Agents of Revolution, Rum, and Rhetorical Action,” at the Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference in Tempe, AZ. In April she presented a paper titled, “Roots and Wings: Balancing Hybrid Sources of Knowledge in the Composition Classroom,” at the CCCC in Houston, TX.

Professor Wecker recently signed on with Fountainhead Publishing to create and edit a publication featuring student writers from WRIT 101 and 201 at the University of Montana. This new text will be published annually and will be required reading in all sections of WRIT 101 and 201. The goal of this publication is to celebrate the depth and variety of student writing produced in WRIT 101 and 201, and to stimulate classroom conversation focused on both professional and student writers.
Congratulations to the MFA & MA Class of 2016!

MFA in Creative Writing
Alicia Bones - Fiction
Alida Dean - Fiction
Derek Heckman - Fiction
Roland Jackson - Fiction
Sarah Kahn - Fiction
Kelly McClure - Fiction
Phillip Meek - Fiction
Alana Trumpy - Fiction
William Wallace - Fiction
Hannah Withers - Fiction
Kimberly Covill - Nonfiction
Jeff Gailus - Nonfiction
Riley Gillan - Nonfiction
Brooke Glass-O'Shea - Nonfiction
Rosemary Madero - Nonfiction
Stefan Olson - Nonfiction
Jolene Brink - Poetry
Charles Decker - Poetry
Sierra Jacob - Poetry
Eve Kenneally - Poetry
Lauren Loftis - Poetry
Rachel Richardson - Poetry
Diana Roffman - Poetry

MA in English
Sean Collins - Literature
Kimberly Covill - Literature
Brittani Hisom - Literature
John Jepsen - Literature
Margie Judd - Literature
Sarah Kahn - Literature
James Warwood - Literature
Ryan Landolfi - English Teaching
Jared Smith - English Teaching
Brandon Waldenberg - English Teaching
English Department honors Five Mortar Board Outstanding Seniors

This year, the English Department faculty voted to honor five undergraduates as Mortar Board Outstanding Seniors: Jacquelyn Davis (Teaching), Ryan Hitchcock (Literature) Jillian Jenkins (Film Studies), Karl Olson (Literature & Environment), and Spencer Ruchti (Creative Writing). Each of these individuals will receive a Mortar Board medallion and speak at the Department of English graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 14, at 2 pm in the University Center Ballroom.

Jacquelyn Davis is currently student teaching in Tomiyama Junior High School in Okayama, Japan. Earlier this semester, Jacquelyn student taught at Willard Alternative High School in Missoula. Through the Office of Civic Engagement’s 2014 Alternative Winter Break, she volunteered at Head Start Preschools and Boys and Girls Clubs in San Francisco. Jacquelyn enjoyed sharing her love of learning through local volunteer programs like Flagship and the Writing Coaches of Missoula, as well as through multicultural experiences like the UM Global Conversation Program. During her time at UM, Jacquelyn has received various scholarships, including the Hersey Foundation and Montana University System Honors Scholarships.

Ryan Hitchcock brings together his love of the Montana landscape with his passion for literature. A contributor to The Oval, Ryan has received the Montana Achievement Award and the Rose Southworth Megee Scholarship. He will pursue his graduate studies in English literature at the University of Wyoming.

Jillian Jenkins is a passionate advocate for film studies and its importance in both academia and popular culture. It was during her time in Rennes, France that she discovered her true passion for film and decided to major in film studies at UM. Upon graduation, she hopes to land a job with Turner Classic Films.

Karl Olson has received the Osher Scholarship for non-traditional students and the Helen J. Olson Scholarship. For four years, he was a College of Humanities and Sciences scholar. Karl has published the essay, “The End of Montana: Heather Tone, Gertrude Stein, and the Frontiers of Metaphor,” in the anthology of Montana poetry criticism, These Living Songs. Karl minored in climate change studies and is a strong advocate for building “big bridges” between the humanities and the sciences.

Spencer Ruchti is working on his novel, The Mass of Men Lead Lives of Quiet Desperation, which won a Best Project Award at this year’s UM Conference for Undergraduate Research as well as a Research Scholarship from the Davidson Honors College. His work has also appeared in Scribendi, The Oval, and Odyssey, where he served as Editor-in-Chief in 2015. He is now working as an editorial intern for the environmental literary magazine, Camas.
Special thank you to all of the donors and contributions that make scholarship and award funds for higher learning in the humanities possible.

Graduate Students

Merriam-Frontier Award—Alida Dean
Greta Wrolstad Travel Award—Sierra Jacob
Nettie Weber Scholarships—Roland Jackson and Alana Trumpy
Goedicke/Robinson Scholarship—Rebecca Durham
The Husted-Jones Scholarship for Creative Writing—Sarah Aronson
Alice Passano Hancock Davidson Scholarship—Zachary Raasch
A.B. Guthrie Memorial Fund—Hamish Rickett
Rhea Jones Ashmore International Student Teaching Award, College of Education—Heather Jurva
CutBank Editor-in-Chief 2016-2017—Kate Barrett
Undergraduate RA 2016-2017—Sarah Aronson
Second Wind Coordinators 2016-2017—Claire Voris, Renee Branum and KJ Kern

Undergraduate Students

Helen J. Olson—Chase Greenfield and William Matross
Rose Southworth Megee—Cassie Sevigny and Maisie Gospodarek
Maureen Mansfield—William Matross and Maisie Gospodarek
The Welch Scholarship—Antonio Torres
The Opus Scholarship—Cheyenne Goetz, Steven Abell and Jeron Jennings
James Crumley Memorial Scholarship—Madison Hinrichs
Margaret Beebe Memorial Scholarship—Emma Treut
Fishtrap Scholarship—Kaley Schumaker
EdReady Undergraduate Scholarship, College of Education—Emilia Strickland
Freeman Award (Jean Kountz and Hal G. Stearns Scholarship fund) - TBA
We are delighted to announce that three graduate students in English are recipients of 2016-2017 Bertha Morton Scholarships – the University’s most prestigious award for graduate students. Congratulations to Nate duke (first year MFA), Brian Groh (first year MFA) and Stephanie Pushaw (first year MFA). Way to GO!

Sarah Aronson (first year MFA), Jolene Brink (MFA 2016), Jeff Gailus (MFA 2016), Spencer Ruchti (BA 2016) and Alana Trumpy (MFA 2016) were all selected to be Ridge Scholars by the Institute of Health and Humanities. Ridge Scholarships are funded by an endowment given by an anonymous donor and are designed to foster research projects at the intersection of health and/or healthcare and the Humanities.

Julia Staben, one of last year’s (2015) excellent graduates in Film Studies, was recently accepted into two impressive graduate MA film programs, one at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts and the other at Ohio University. Julia will be attending the program at Ohio University, where she received a full-ride scholarship. We are confident that she will thrive in graduate school and in whatever film-related career she decides to choose. Congratulations, Julia!

Senior William Matross presented his paper, “The Shaved Chin: Cultural Imperialism and Gender Norms in Dwarves,” at the 37th annual International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts in Orlando, March 16-20. The paper examines the prototypical dwarf created by J. R. R. Tolkien and used in various fantasy settings by other writers. Central to this paper is the lack of sexual dimorphism among these fantastic creatures, specifically the presence of beards in both genders. In many modern interpretations, dwarven women are shaved of their beards, either by the authors or by their own actions. In this paper, William examines the importance of the beard among dwarves and that the act of shaving it is a form of cultural imperialism, where the authors exert their own cultural beliefs on their fictive subjects. William is currently working on a dual Bachelor of Arts in English (with emphases in Literature and Creative Writing) and Anthropology (with an emphasis in Culture and Diversity) as well as a minor in Irish Studies.
Professor Nancy S. Cook had a very busy spring and fall 2015. She was promoted to Professor, won an award, delivered two papers and presented on three panels at three conferences, and had three essays and a book review published. In October, she was awarded the Delbert and Edith Wylder Award by the Western Literature Association for distinguished service to the Association.

John Glendening recently published three essays. In February he attended a workshop, Literature and Evolution, at Florida State.


Ashby Kinch continued his work as “Doctor Death” by editing the medieval volume of Bloomsbury’s planned six-volume Cultural History of Death, scheduled to appear in 2016. The medieval volume, covering the period 800-1450, draws together 8 scholars working in archaeology, art history, English, history, philosophy, and theology to explore the rituals, beliefs, artistic practices, and cultural traditions of death in medieval Europe. His 15,000 word introduction places these chapters in a broader context, as well as developing its own ideas about death and literary and visual art in the medieval period. He also published “The Mind of Nature, and the Nature of Mind,” Sewanee Medieval Colloquium (April 1-2, 2016) and “Framing Problems: User Interface and the Medieval Illustrated Manuscript,” 95th Biennial New Chaucer Society Conference, London (July, 2016).
Beverly Ann Chin (Professor) received the 2015 Richard W. Halle Award for an Outstanding Middle Level Educator. This lifetime achievement award recognized Chin’s exemplary leadership in promoting the understanding of the developmental needs and characteristics of young adolescents. Chin presented two sessions at the 2015 National Council of Teachers of English: “Looking Within and Reading Beyond: Writing in and beyond the Classroom” and “Helping Students Craft their Persuasive Writing for Specific Audiences.” At the Montana Association of Teachers of English Language Arts (MATELA) conference, Chin spoke at two sessions: “Cross-Curricular Assessment of College Writing” and “Montana Dual Enrollment Programs.” In April, Chin was the Featured Speaker at the International Education Symposium at Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk. In May, Chin is chairing the MATELA 2-day conference for students and teachers during the Shakespeare’s First Folio exhibit at UM.

Anna Baldwin (Adjunct Assistant Professor) co-authored with Jioanna Carjuzaa (MSU) and Michael Munson (Salish Kootenai College) the article, “Making the Dream Real: Montana’s Indian Education for All Initiative Thrives in a National Climate of Anti-Ethnic Studies.” The article was published in the peer-reviewed journal, Multicultural Perspectives (Routledge, 2014). Baldwin is a 2015 National Teaching Fellow with Hope Street Group, a non-partisan organization that connects teachers with policy-makers in meaningful ways.

Leanne Deschamps (Adjunct Instructor) presented a workshop titled “8th Graders Love to Read” at the Montana Association of Teachers of English Language Arts (MATELA), held in conjunction with the Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers in Billings in October 2015. She focused on effective strategies for creating an engaging reading classroom. In November, Deschamps attended the National Council of Teachers of English annual convention in Minneapolis, where she chaired the session, “Looking Within and Reaching Beyond: Writing in and beyond the Classroom.” This well-attended session of 200 teachers offered specific ways to help students improve their persuasive writing.
First Folio!

The University of Montana is the only host site for an original of Shakespeare’s First Folio in Montana! As a partner on this very special exhibit, MATELA is hosting a two-day event for students and educators on the University of Montana-Missoula campus.

**Friday May 20th:** We will showcase middle school, high school, and college student performances of Shakespeare. After each performance, the audience will have the opportunity to talk with the student performers about their experience with studying Shakespeare. Free and open to the public.

**Saturday May 21st:** We will host a teachers’ conference featuring workshops on teaching Shakespeare at the middle school, high school and college levels. Teachers will share resources, lesson plans, and instructional strategies that engage their students in the studying of Shakespeare. Free and open to teachers. For more information go to [Mansfield Library First Folio Schedule of Events page](#).

Sarah Naseem (Adjunct Instructor) attended the Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI) conference in Bozeman. The MBI conference included workshops that focused on strengthening middle school and high school students’ reading and writing skills as well as fostering students’ emotional well-being. Naseem also participated in the Bitterroot Valley professional development event-- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)—that provided teachers and counselors with strategies to help students who experience trauma in their lives.

Claire Mikeson, English Teaching, is returning from India where she conducted her student teaching this spring. She spent the semester teaching grades 10-11 at Kokaikanal International School, one of India’s most prestigious independent schools, located in the Palni Hills of South India.

Heather Jurva, English Teaching, will be traveling to China for student teaching next fall. She’ll be teaching English to young Chinese students either at Guiyang No. 4 Experimental Elementary School or the Hangzhou New Century Foreign Language School.
The Creative Writing Program held a one day conference in March featuring agents, bloggers, editors, entrepreneurs, freelance journalists and screenwriters. Many creative writing alumni served as panelists - Alice Bolin (MFA 2011), Dan Brooks (MFA 2006), Asta So (MFA 2014), Caitlin Stainken (MFA 2014), and Ken White (MFA 2000).

Karen Volkman’s new poetry collection Whereeso was featured on NPR as one of the books to look for in 2016.

Deirdre McNamer was selected by the Montana Arts Council for a 2015 Artist’s Innovation Award.

Kevin Canty’s story “God’s Work” was published in the April 4th issue of The New Yorker. His new novel The Underworld will be published by Norton.
In September the Montana Book Festival launched its first year as an independent entity, successfully coordinated by Rachel Mindell (MFA/MA 2015). The Creative Writing Program co-sponsored a nonfiction reading with Charles D’Ambrosio, hosted an MFA panel with students from UM, Eastern Washington and University of Idaho, conducted a Faculty panel, and presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to Rick DeMarinis (MA 1967) – author of seventeen books. Panelists Kevin Canty, Jon Jackson, Bill Kittredge, Lois Welch and Annick Smith discussed the importance of DeMarinis’ work. Retired Fiction Professor Earl Ganz made a surprise appearance, joining in the celebration.

Alida Dean – 2016 Merriam-Frontier Award.
Congratulations to Alida Dean, MFA student in fiction, who was selected as the winner of the 2016 Merriam-Frontier Award!

In the judges’ words, "Alida expresses a unique perspective on the world, full of humility and strangeness. Her stories/essays are compelling on a long spectrum, from sentence-level to plotting to that world view. She gives her readers a balance between strong sense of place and the human experience of her characters."

A celebratory reading took place in February when she read a selection from her manuscript, “Stopping Places.” Alida also won the 2015 Arcadia Nonfiction contest ($1000 and publication) of her essay “Backstory.”

Jolene Brink - Will have a solo exhibit at the FrontierSpace in August 2016. The exhibit "Atmospheric Ecologies" will incorporate her poetry thesis and a series of "transparency" prints exploring ideas of accumulation and a timelapse video. Jolene’s chapbook, Peregrine, was published by Red Bird Chapbooks in September. Peregrine was the recipient of the 2015 Merriam-Frontier Award. The prize money from the award helped fund her writing residency at the Kunstnarhuset Messen Artist House in Ålvik, Norway last May, where she conducted research on alchemy, glaciers and the history of mining for her M.F.A. poetry thesis. She has poems forthcoming in The Carolina Quarterly and 5x5.

Alana Trumpy reviewed the MFA program for Niche Magazine.

Rebecca Durham’s essay “Unconformities” was published in Superstition Review. Her botanical art and poetry were featured at the Montana Natural History Center.

K.J. Kern’s story, "Funeral Potatoes," won this year's Big Snowy Contest ($500). The story will be published in the summer issue of Montana Quarterly.

Billy Wallace’s has stories published in Rappahannock Review and Carve Magazine.

Brooke Glass-O’Shea’s flash fiction story, "We Break Up in Multiple Universes," was nominated by Jersey Devil Press for a Pushcart Prize.

Zachary Raasch’s book review of Go Set a Watchman was published in The Hopkins Review.

Hannah Withers has had stories published in The Santa Clara Review and Barely South Review. She also interviewed Val Brelinski for The Believer and was awarded a fellowship from Idyllwild Arts for Writers’ Week.


Riley Gillan has work published in Habitat, Larken and Laurel Magazine. In January he served as the Arrowmont School of Arts Pentaculum Writer-in-Residence.

Hamish Rickett received an honorable mention in Glimmer Train’s Short Story Award for New Writer’s contest and published in Flash Fiction Magazine.

Rachel Richardson’s prose piece "Aubade: Divorce" will be published in the “We Don’t Know and They Won’t Tell Us” section of Storyscape.
Read Trammel’s story, "Rhubarb Wine" was published, with an interview of Trammel, in Driftwood.

Lauren Ward’s (second year MFA) story "Kill Buyer" will be published in the June issue of the Nottingham Review.

Alicia Bones (second year MFA) published stories in Maudlin House and Necessary Fiction.

Stefan Olson’s "Ride to Remember" was published in the February issue of the Cardiff Review.

Bernard Cooper was our Kittredge Visiting Writer in Prose for Fall 2015 semester. He has written four memoirs, My Avant-Garde Education, Bill From My Father, Maps to Anywhere, and Truth Serum, as well as a novel, Year of Rhymes, and a collection of short stories, Guess Again. His work has appeared in Story, Ploughshares, Harper's, The Paris Review, The New York Times Magazine, five volumes of The Best American Essays, and been read on This American Life as well as Selected Shorts. He has won numerous awards and prizes, among them the PEN/Ernest Hemingway Award, an O. Henry Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Cooper was a core faculty member in the MFA program at Bennington College and the Masters of Professional Writing program at USC. He is now focusing on creating art collages. In February 2015, Miami-Dade College Museum of Art and Design presented an exhibit of Bernard Cooper’s digital montages. (Photo credit: Jonathan Cowan)

Stefania Heim was Hugo Visiting Writer in Poetry for Spring 2016 Semester. She is the author of the poetry collection A Table That Goes On for Miles, winner of the Gatewood Prize from Switchback Books. Her poems, essays, and translations have appeared in numerous publications, including A Public Space, Aufgabe, comma poetry, Jacket2, The Journal of Narrative Theory, The Literary Review, The Paris Review, and Pinwheel. She is a founding editor of CIRCUMFERENCE: Poetry in Translation and a Poetry Editor at Boston Review. She holds an MFA from Columbia University and a PhD from the CUNY Graduate Center where she wrote a dissertation entitled Dark Matter: Susan Howe, Muriel Rukeyser, and the Scholar’s Art. She has taught at Columbia, Deep Springs College, Duke University, and Hunter College. (Photo credit: Youngsuk Suh)
Megan Kruse (MFA 2010) was honored by the National Book Foundation as one of the "5 Under 35" up and coming authors of 2015. She also joined the faculty at Eastern Oregon University’s Low Residency MFA Program as the 2015 – 16 Visiting Writer-in-Residence. Call Me Home, her first novel, was selected for a 2016 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award.

In October Governor Bullock selected Michael Earl Craig (BA 1994) as the next Montana Poet Laureate. Craig, who works as both a poet and farrier in Livingston, MT, has published four collections of poetry. Talkativeness (2014, Wave Books) is his most recent.

Congratulations to Sharman Apt Russell (MFA 1980) on being awarded The John Burroughs Medal for distinguished natural history writing. Her book, Diary of a Citizen Scientist: Chasing Tiger Beetles and Other New Ways of Engaging the World, has been recognized for excellence in a genre that encourages the public to consider their impact on, and relationship to, the natural world today.


Alice Bolin’s (MFA 2011) Dead Girls, pitched in the tradition of Roxane Gay and Joan Didion, will be published by Morrow/Harper Collins in 2018.

Beth Hunter McHugh (MFA 2009) won the 2015 Meadowlark Award for her first book The Actor.

Sandra Simonds’ (MFA 2003) poem "Similitude at Versailles" and Ed Skoog’s (MFA 1996) poem "The Macrena" were both selected for Best American Poetry of 2015, edited by Sherman Alexie.


Ryan Bell (MFA 2014) travelled to Russia and Kazakhstan on a Fulbright-National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowship. He is conducting a 3-month, international research project, studying the emergent cattle ranching industries in these countries. Read his blog Comrade Cowboys.

Aaron Shulman (MFA2009) recently sold the proposal for his nonfiction narrative history of the Paneros of Spain, a family of brilliant, strange poets, to Ecco/HarperCollins. The book grew out of an essay he published in The Believer a few months ago.

Brandon Shimoda (MFA 2006) won the 2016 William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America for Evening Oracle.

Lehua M. Taitano (MFA 2010) was a featured poet in Kuwentuhan (Talkstory), a poetry project produced by Barbara Jane Reyes and The Poetry Center at San Francisco State University. She also has a chapbook of poetry, Sonoma, published with Drop Leaf Press (2016). Her poem, "One Kind of Hunger" is forthcoming from Poetry Magazine, via the Poetry Foundation. Her short story, "Makana," was recently published with the University of Iowa’s International Writing Program’s Narrative Witness, featuring indigenous writers from North America and Australia.

Emma Torzs (MFA 2012) has a story in The O. Henry Prize 2015 anthology. Her story, "The Wall," won the 2015 Jeffrey E. Smith Editors’ Prize from the Missouri Review.

Josh Fomon's (MFA 2013) first poetry collection, Though We Bled Meticulously, was published by Black Ocean with a blurb by Prageeta Sharma.

Alicia Mountain (MFA 2015) was accepted into the creative writing PhD program at the University of Denver and will begin as a doctoral candidate in the fall.

Karin Schalm’s (MFA & MA 1996) poems “The Generalist” and “The Apprentice to Last Century Calls me on the Phone” are published in Newworld Review.
Traolach O'Riordain was featured in the Missoulian on March 14th, 2016, Monday's Montanan: Traolach O'Riordain wishes you the blessings of St. Patrick.

Ceiliúradh Lae le Pádraig – St. Patrick’s Day Celebration—Let us begin by simply thanking you all for making the St. Patrick’s Day celebration such an enjoyable and memorable event. The day began at St. Francis Xavier Church where Fr. Joseph Carver celebrated Mass in honor of Ireland’s Patron Saint. The numbers attending the Mass grow every year. We are grateful to all at St. Francis Xavier, to Fr. Carver, the Knights of Columbus, and Clair Leonard for making this such a success.

Mórshiúl agus Ceiliúradh Lae le Pádraig - St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Festivities

We were given a great day for our annual parade. The number of floats this year exceeded any previous year. It was particularly exciting to see all the young people involved especially the young hurlers and dancers. We were privileged to honor Bob Whaley as Grand Marshall, and Kevin and Janice O’Meagher as Irishman and woman of the year. Bob Whaley and the O’Meaghers have contributed generously to the community, and their love for their heritage and their country make all proud to be Irish.

Cluiche Iománaíochta - Hurling Game

The UM Grizzlies, current national champions, took on the Thomas Meagher’s community hurling team in a very exciting game at Loyola Sacred Heart Ram field. This was, essentially, a match between the current and the former national champions, as the Meagher’s are made up of players who played in the first national championship win in 2014. About 300 people watched the Meagher’s defeat the Grizzlies by one point. Our thanks to Toby Stack and all at Loyola Sacred Heart for their support.

Dinnéar agus Ceannt Phádraig Naofa – St. Patrick’s Day Dinner and Auction

The Friends’ annual St. Patrick’s Day Banquet and Auction was held at the Holiday Inn, Parkside on Saturday, March 12. The event was very well attended and was a great success. The music was again outstanding, the Irish dancers stole the show, and food was excellent. We are very grateful to all of you who donated items for the auction. Everyone in attendance was impressed by the quality and the variety of items on display. Our thanks to you all once again for all you do.
All six documentaries shown at this year's We Did It Ourselves Documentary Film Festival were met with enthusiastic applause from the standing-room-only crowd at the Crystal Theater the night of December 7th. This year's theme was survival, and most of the films in the lineup included stories about the trials and triumphs of certain UM students. Festival subjects included a football player who speaks eloquently about learning to cope with a previously debilitating depression, a once broken-hearted young man who survived a serious suicide attempt, and a student filmmaker who explores the significance of his near-death experience in his own documentary. The features, however, were not entirely youth centered. Keenan Goodman and Jacob Boelman produced “Mary Rose,” a beautiful documentary illustrating the indomitable spirit of a local woman who continues to thrive after 91 years of hard living. Although no contracts have yet been signed, we expect “Mary Rose” to appear on Montana PBS within the next six months. Don’t miss it!

English Dept. Grad Makes a Difference

Bryan Bellow, a 2010 LIT graduate who produced his first documentary in a Film Studies production class, was one of the featured speakers at Missoula’s own Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, which took place in February. Bryan started the country’s first homeless film cooperative in Washington, DC last year, and he and the homeless producers he tutors have been written up in The Atlantic and featured on PBS News Hour. In Bryan’s festival workshop “Street Sense, DC,” he advocated for what he believes is one of the most effective forms of homeless activism: instead of making films about the homeless, support the homeless in making films about themselves. Go Bryan!

FILM Studies Promotional Class

Sean O’Brien’s spring semester Promotionals class is helping to boost enrollment by producing promotionals for the University. The class is working with Mario Schulzke, UM’S Assistant VP for Marketing, and Jed Liston, UM’s Director of Marketing and Outreach, to put together a variety of promo-documentaries featuring the highlights of campus life and the surrounding community. Links to these videos will be sent to individuals who have expressed interest in attending UM, and the hope is that our very talented Film Studies producers can help convince others of that which is already obvious to us – The University of Montana is a wonderful place to go to school!
English Department Picnic:
You are invited to join us on Friday, May 13th, from 1-5 for the English Department Picnic at Greenough Park– Park Shelter. At 3:30 we will honor Greg Pape and his many years of service in our department. Greg, Congratulations on your retirement.

Friends Tour 2016:
Join the Friends of Irish Studies on a nine-day tour of Ireland this coming summer. This is a journey home, where the land tells a story of a people that goes back thousands of years. This is your story and your moment to travel back to the land where your people lived and loved and rested their bones. The tour is about reconnecting with the past and with the poetic soul and rebel spirit of Ireland. The tour runs from June 19 to June 28 and space is still available.

The Irish Studies program is working with the Butte Silver Bow Archives to put together a travelling exhibit that highlights the role of the Irish of America in the creation of modern Ireland. The cultural and political nationalism that swept through Ireland from the 1890s had its origins in America. Its objectives were referred to collectively by Pádraig Pearse as the Fenian program, a program that rejected “Home Rule” and sought instead an Ireland “not free merely, but Gaelic as well; not Gaelic merely, but free as well.” Particularly prominent in this nationalist movement were Butte and Anaconda. Butte was considered to be the most nationalist and Gaelic city in Irish America, and its contribution to the cause of Irish freedom and the restoration of Irish Gaelic culture far exceeded what one expect of a city of its size. This has been gone unacknowledged for generations. The exhibit seeks to take a small step towards setting the record straight.
Contributions from English alumni and friends fund a variety of Department initiatives, programs and student scholarships. If you would like to support the College of Humanities and Sciences, English Department, please send check or money order to University of Montana Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807-7159, with a note in the memo line designating it for the English Department.

Contributions are also accepted online.

For more information about making a gift (with no obligation to do so), please contact Marci Bozeman of the UM Foundation, Marci.Bozeman@mso.umt.edu, or (406) 243-2646.