

English Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MONTANA
hs.umt.edu/english/



Honoring Professor John Glendening Upon His Retirement

This spring, we honor the career and achievements of Dr. John Glendening. Through his teaching, scholarship, and service, Professor Glendening brought state and national recognition to our department and the humanities. In May, he will deliver the graduation address.

As a teacher, Professor Glendening enjoyed working with undergraduates and graduates. He taught a wide range of courses, including Introduction to Literary Studies; History of British Literature; India and the English

Novel; Gothic Fiction and Film; Times and Texts of Oscar Wilde; Darwin and the Novel; and Introduction to the Humanities. Students value his expertise, and they praise his commitment in helping them read critically and write carefully.

On May 4, at the end of the year department party, we will celebrate Professor Glendening along with the scholarship recipients and mortar board students. The party is 5 – 6:30 pm in the Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall.

Continued on page 3



Spring 2017

Contents

Page 3

Honoring John Glendening Continued

Page 4

Mortar Board Outstanding Seniors

Page 6 & 7

MA & MFA Class of 2017

Scholarships: Grad & Undergrad

Page 8

Big News

Page 10

Creative Writing

Visiting Writers

MFA Grad Students

Page 12

Alumni News

Page 13

Film Studies

Page 14

Irish Studies

Page 15

Literature & Composition

MA in LIT Grad Students

Page 16

English Teaching

MA in ENT Grad Students



Chair's Column

by Beverly Ann Chin

Throughout the year, the English Department faculty, staff, students, and alumni have received special recognition and participated in many campus and community events. As you read this newsletter, you will see the diversity, depth, and vitality of our academic and civic engagement. Our people and programs demonstrate the department's essential role in the humanities at the University of Montana and in our society. We hope you will share this newsletter with others; we want to grow our community of English Department advocates.

As this academic year comes to a close, we invite you to join us in celebrating the career of Professor John Glendening, who is retiring after 25 years of teaching in our department. Everyone is welcome!



Professor John Glendening earned his BA in English at Wabash College, his MA in English at Ball State University, and his PhD in English and Victorian Studies at Indiana University. From 1992 to 1998, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor in our department; he became an Assistant Professor in 1996. He attained the rank of Professor in 2006.

A respected scholar with 3 books, his most recent being *Science and Religion in Neo-Victorian Novels: Eye of the Ichthyosaur*, (Routledge, 2013), and 15 peer-reviewed articles, Professor Glendening has contributed greatly to the field of Victorian literature.

Professor Glendening served the department and university in important ways. He was a member of the Film Committee, the ASCRC Writing Committee, and the Faculty Senate. For the UM Conference on Undergraduate Research, Professor Glendening

served as an abstract evaluator, judge, and session chair.

David Moore praises Professor Glendening's attitude and dedication to his passions, remarking that "He runs up and down Mt. Sentinel! . . . a discipline which I associate also with his steady, relentless, good-humored paper-grading in his office, which is always clean and orderly—the exact opposite of mine right next door. There are so many reasons I admire him, and these are just a few."

Please be sure to come to the retirement party on Thursday, May 4, 5 – 6:30 pm in the Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall. Join us in celebrating the fine career and contributions of Professor Glendening.

English Department Honors Five Mortar Board Outstanding Seniors

Joel Kempff (CRWR)

Joel Kempff is the closest thing to a “Renaissance” student – delightful and intellectually adventurous in the best way.

He brings a scholar’s love of inquiry (and a graduate student’s sensibility) to every course he takes, regardless of the subject matter, and regardless of whether it is a lower-division or upper-division course, and he does it in humble ways, in ways that always make him part of the group/class rather than separating him from other students. He has also been one of our most distinctive and memorable departmental citizens— which is quite an astonishing thing to say about an undergraduate student, especially.

Before his time here at the University of Montana, Joel worked as a journalist for CBS News in Montana and Oregon, where he won awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and the Associated Press. He studied literature and Latin at University College Cork in Ireland. Now, he is headed to the University of Notre Dame, where he’ll earn his PhD in English literature, focusing on science in literature since the 19th century.

Joel combines interests in creative writing, literature, and philosophy. He is an extraordinarily passionate and well-informed participant in the academic enterprise and is attending Notre Dame with the hope of becoming a professor. His superb quotations on the whiteboard outside our department’s main office, regularly renewed and artistically adorned, display wide reading and a commitment to literary community. Many people will keenly miss him.

Bryce Tomas (ENT)

Bryce Thomas exhibits a sincere interest in students’ education and in them as individuals. He provides an engaging classroom with high standards to

encourage strong critical-thinking skills for his students. Bryce is an exceptional teaching candidate whose knowledge of theater production and literature allows him to foster student learning in and beyond the English classroom.

Bryce says, “The three accomplishments I think best represent my success are coaching Big Sky High School’s speech and debate squad (literary interpretation category), being the recipient of the Vernon & Myrtle Glascock Scholarship in Education, and student teaching in Arlee. I worry that student teaching may be cheating a little bit, as it isn’t really out of the ordinary for our program, but I am quite proud and happy with this experience. If nothing else, I am also expecting to graduate with a 4.0.”

Samantha Angel (FILM)

Sam Angel is prepared to meet the world, and these days, that is quite an accomplishment. This bright, talented, energetic young woman has expanded her horizons by making the most of the opportunities with which she was presented. She graduates a sophisticated film theorist, an excellent documentary filmmaker, and someone who has mastered valuable administrative skills during her numerous internships with film festivals. Her first foray into her post-graduation world will be spent with the 2017 Global Documentary Outreach program, working abroad to identify and document the work of an under-celebrated figure making positive changes in the world. Go Sam!

Sam says, “I’m proud of my first documentary film *I am Jay* about a transgender man living in Missoula. I’ll be traveling to Nepal this summer to direct a second film. My greatest accomplishments include the Missoula Film Festival Circuit – International Big Sky Film Festival and International Wildlife Film Festival internships, Semester at Sea where I travelled to 16 countries while continuing education onboard the MV Explorer with 650 other students, and the Global Ambassador Program.”



Kentaro Jim Uchimoto Combs kentɔ:ɔ dʒim utʃi:mɔ:tɔ: (LING)

Kentaro brings a unique perspective from his experience growing up bilingual in English and Japanese. He has a passion for studying how language works and how people use it. The three achievements (according to Kentaro) that best represent his success:

1. The fact that I got on the Dean's list last semester when I was taking 19 credits – one of which was a Brit Lit 220L honors class with Dr. Kinch.
2. Taking 1 to 3 upper division courses every semester of college, which opened and enlightened my road to achievement.
3. My teaching and training in all Zumba fields (which has enhanced my teaching and cueing skills).

William Riley (LIT)

Will Riley's work investigates superhero comic books through a queer lens, bringing his analysis to bear on figures—human and superhuman—that question and subvert perceived notions of normative gender and sexuality. He has presented at national conferences and designed an independent study to further his area of interest, while simultaneously excelling in all his classes across the curriculum.

He represented the Literature Program at this year's Intermountain Graduate Conference at Idaho State University, presenting his original paper, "Rebelling with Cain: Regaining Power Through Biblical Appropriation," which stemmed from the research he did as part of the recent Literature Capstone course, The Bible and Literature.

A steady, always engaged (and engaging) student, who brings both a scholarly dimension and a sense of intellectual exuberance and joyfulness to the classroom and to his out-of-classroom exchanges, Will has a winning

personality and an ambitiousness towards his academic pursuits that remind professors why we do what we do. Will says, "I was the recipient of the Drake Award for Writing last spring for a conference paper I delivered at the 37th annual International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts. I am also a leader in the LGBTQI community, working with other community members to create a safe space and often hosting events for the Bear community in Missoula. I also serve as an Assistant Chief Steward for IBEW Local 768 and worked over last summer to write the contract between our local and AT&T."

Claire Compton (LITE)

Claire Compton is a truly gifted student. She writes beautifully, with great clarity, and her essays are as insightful and capacious as those of a young scholar in our field. It's a delight to read her prose. Curious, open-minded, imaginative, wide-ranging in thought, she is also gracious and generous, able to voice criticisms in a constructive way, able to ask questions that draw others into conversation. Perhaps she will become a novelist, perhaps she will become an ecologist, perhaps she will do all sorts of other things, but whatever she does, she is sure to do outstanding work. Brilliant, original and fearless, she is an exceptional writer and thinker.

Claire says, "Here are the three achievements that I believe best represent my success: I was the recipient of The Freeman Award last fall; I have had my work published in *The Oval* online; and I worked with FreeCycles to develop a model for a compact mobile garden to be used by those members of our community who don't otherwise have access to the land required to grow fresh produce."

A bold, imaginative and beautifully precise writer, Claire has gifts that will serve her well in any direction she chooses to go.



Congratulations

MFA & MA Class of 2017

MFA in Creative Writing

Kate Barrett – Fiction

Mackenzie Boyd – Fiction

Brian Groh – Fiction

KJ Kern – Fiction

Stephanie Pushaw – Fiction

Nicole Roché – Fiction

Read Trammel – Fiction, Fall 2016

Lauren Ward – Fiction, Fall 2016

Reneé Branum – Nonfiction

Heather Jurva – Nonfiction

Lisbet Portman – Nonfiction

Claire Voris – Nonfiction

Grace Arenas – Poetry

Sarah Aronson – Poetry

Anna Blackburn – Poetry

Linnea Blank – Poetry

Nate Duke – Poetry

MA in English

Mary Dea – English Teaching

Aaron Fortner – English Teaching

Heather Jurva – English Teaching

Nicholas Schulz – English Teaching

Jonathan Ziegler – English Teaching

Cris Jardon – Literature

Briana Wipf – Literature



Scholarships

Undergraduate

The Welch Scholarship
– James Riach

The Opus Scholarship
– Courtney Colburn and Sam Olson

James Crumley Memorial Scholarship
– Mary Fussell

Margaret Beebe Memorial Scholarship
– Elizabeth Mays

Alice Passano Hancock Davidson
– Natalie Hamel

Fishtrap Scholarship
– Mary Fussell

Maureen Mansfield Scholarship
– Chase Greenfield

Rose Southworth Megee Scholarship in Literature
– Margaret Finlay, Cheyenne Goetz,
& Margaret Finlay

Helen J. Olson Scholarship
– Dusy Keim & Emily Morrison

Walter N. King Memorial Scholarship
– Mallory Walters

Jean Kountz and Hal G. Sterns Scholarship
Freeman Award
– Mary McCormick

Graduate

Bertha Morton
– Jordan Chestnut

Merriam-Frontier Award
– Anna Blackburn

Greta Wrolstad Travel Award
– Sarah Aronson

Nettie Weber Scholarships
– Rebecca Durham & Nicole Roché

Richard Hugo Memorial Scholarship
– Skylar Salvatore

Goedicke/Robinson Scholarship
– TBA

Academy of American Poets University Prize
– Sarah Aronson

The Husted-Jones Scholarship for Creative Writing
– Regina Fitzsimmons

Creative Writing Scholarship
– Connor McElwee

A.B. Guthrie Memorial Award
– Emma Pfeiffer

Truman Capote Fellowships
– Jason Bacaj, David Queen, Joseph Kirk
& Peggy Jo Paubustan

CutBank Editor-in-Chief 2017-18
– Bryn Agnew

Second Wind Coordinators 2017-18
– Georgia Dennison & Aya Satoh

New Director of Creative Writing



Photo by Tom Bauer

Professor Debra Magpie Earling at Welcome Ceremony

Debra Magpie Earling, a professor of fiction and a member of the Bitterroot Salish Tribe, has been named the new director of our Creative Writing Program. She is the first Native American to hold the position since the program's founding in 1920. *Writer's Chronicle* reported about the welcome ceremony, held at UM's Payne Native American Center, and quoted Earling's acceptance speech: "Missoula is a storied community and the stories of the long-ago Salish who occupied this particular place remain here. This is Indian country and Bitterroot Salish traditional land. I am honored to be the first Native American director of one of the oldest writing programs in the country and privileged to welcome a new generation of storytellers." The University of Montana and the Department of English congratulate Debra on her achievement.

The Underworld by Kevin Canty

Professor Kevin Canty's new novel, *The Underworld*, published by Norton, tells the story of a mine fire that devastates a small Idaho town. As praised by Kirkus Review, Canty's *The Underworld* "does a fine job of showing how disaster can lacerate a place or people without utterly destroying hope." In March, Kevin was featured in the *Missoulian*.



Photo by Tom Bauer

Faculty Member Wins Prestigious Award

Our very own Film Studies Adjunct Professor, Bryan Bello, won the highly competitive Tribeca Film IF/Then Pitch competition, hosted by Missoula's Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in February. The winners of this competition are awarded financial and artistic support to help complete outstanding documentary projects, and Bryan has already put these funds to good use in the service of Missoula's refugees. He and his cohort of instructors and producers are currently holding workshops designed to teach refugees from Missoula's New Neighbors Project to shoot and direct their own short documentaries. These shorts, which will include narratives put together by individuals who have arrived from Syria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, and Eritrea, will be shown at various locations around the state through a screening program established by New Neighbors. Bryan has also formed a team of undergraduate and graduate students from Film Studies and Media Arts to assist him in the production of a longer film that weaves together these various narratives. This longer film will premiere in 2018 at the Tribeca Film Festival in NYC.



The Irish Conference



The Irish Ambassador to the United States, Anne Anderson, paid her first official visit to Montana as part of our conference, and what a welcome she received. She took the bus tour on Thursday, arrived in Anaconda to a guard of honor and a fine, hearty Irish breakfast provided by the AOH and LAOH. Her visit to Butte saw her stop at the Granite Mountain Memorial, the Berkeley Pit, and St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Continued on Page 14.

Water is Life - Oval Clark Fork River Cleanup

The Oval sponsored a team for the Clark Fork River Cleanup on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22nd. Volunteers were divided up into sections, given latex gloves and a brief safety overview by the Missoula Fire Department prior to the cleanup. Missoula County Search & Rescue was on hand providing water patrol during the day. Robert Stubblefield served as the team leader, saying, "This was great fun and for a good cause that I care a great deal about." The photo from Team Oval's day spells out "Oval" with tires, arms, and a piece of pipe pulled from the bank at the Clark Fork River Cleanup.

Thank you Team Oval!



Creative Writing Faculty—

Robert Stubblefield's introduction to "A Sense of Being," a feature on the art of Wes Mills, appears in volume 11, number 1 of *basalt*. Stubblefield collaborated with Wes Mills and Kerri Rosenstein on this eight-page article that showcases Mills's artwork and Stubblefield's prose.

Judy Blunt was selected as a reviewer for the 2018 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Creative Writing Fellowships. The NEA received over 1,600 eligible applications this spring for fellowships in prose—both fiction and nonfiction—and funds roughly 2-3 percent of eligible applicants. According to NEA spokesman Mohamed Sheriff, "To maintain the integrity and relevance of these fellowships, we seek a diverse group of reviewers who are of the highest caliber to participate in the adjudication process and ensure those top applicants are identified and funded." Blunt will serve on a panel of 10 reviewers who each read and score approximately 150 manuscripts. The applications, the NEA notes, "are evaluated solely on their artistic excellence."

Joanna Klink has been awarded fellowships from the MacDowell Colony and the Yaddo Corporation. In June she will teach at the Kenyon Review Summer Workshop, and in August she will return to Civitella Ranieri in Umbria as a Director's Guest. She also has an art book in production with Saul Melman, a sculptor in New York.

Prageeta Sharma collaborated with Pulitzer Prize poet, and recent UM visitor, Greg Pardlo on a renga poem project for Barack Obama. Her chapter titled "Pedagogy and Authority in Teaching *The Waste Land*: Authorial voices and postcolonial criticism" was just published in *Creative Writing Innovations: Breaking Boundaries in the Classroom*.

Sharma is also encouraging the UM community (faculty, alumni, students, and staff) to propose panels, papers, readings, and performances for the next **Thinking Its Presence** conference at The University of Arizona, Poetry Center (the last two were held at the University of Montana). The deadline for our UM Community can be extended till the 15th of May.

David Gates reviewed Jim Harrison's novella *The Ancient Minstrel* in the New York Times Book Review.

Visiting Writers –

Distinguished Kittredge Writer Catherine Lacey is the author of *Nobody Is Ever Missing*, a finalist for the New York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award and a winner of a 2016 Whiting Award. It has been translated and is forthcoming in French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch & German. She was awarded an Artist's Fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts in 2012 and has taught in the Creative Writing Program at Columbia University. She has published work in *The New York Times* and *Oxford American*, among others. Her second novel, *The Answers*, is forthcoming from Farrar, Straus & Giroux in June 2017. Her first short story collection, *Small Differences*, will follow.



translated and is forthcoming in French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch & German. She was awarded an Artist's Fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts in 2012 and has taught in the Creative Writing Program at Columbia University. She has published work in *The New York Times* and *Oxford American*, among others. Her second novel, *The Answers*, is forthcoming from Farrar, Straus & Giroux in June 2017. Her first short story collection, *Small Differences*, will follow.

Distinguished Hugo Writer Sandra Lim

is the author of *The Wilderness* (W.W. Norton, 2014), selected by Louise Glück for the 2013 Barnard Women Poets Prize, and a previous collection of poetry, *Loveliest Grottesque* (Kore Press, 2006). A 2015 Pushcart Prize winner, she has received fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, the Vermont Studio Center, the Jentel Foundation, and the Getty Research Institute. Lim was born in Seoul, Korea and educated at Stanford University, UC Berkeley, and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. She is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, and lives in Cambridge, MA.



Visiting Assistant Professor Sherwin Bitsui

is the author of *Flood Song* (Copper Canyon Press) and *Shapeshift* (University of Arizona Press). He is Diné of the Biji'bitóónii' Tódi'chii'nii clan and is born of the Tlizilani' clan. He is from White Cone, Arizona, on the Navajo Reservation. His honors include the 2011 Lannan Literary Fellowship, a Native Arts & Culture Foundation Fellowship for Literature, a PEN Open Book Award, an American Book Award and a Whiting Writers Award.



Visiting Assistant Professor **Melissa Kwasny** (MFA 1999) has been teaching Prosody spring semester. Her sixth book of poems, *Where Outside the Body is the Soul Today*, will be published in fall 2017 by the University of Washington Press' Pacific Northwest Poetry Series, edited by Linda Bierds. Her previous book, *Pictograph* (Milkweed Editions 2015) was a finalist for the Rilke Prize. In addition, a forthcoming book of nonfiction, *Putting on the Dog: Animals and Our Clothing*, will appear in 2018 from Trinity University Press. Kwasny is the author of five collections of poetry, including *Reading Novalis in Montana*, which was named one of the top ten books of 2009 by The Huffington Post. Her collection *Earth Recitals: Essays on Image and Vision* was published by Lynx House in 2013. She is also the editor of *Toward the Open Field: Poets on the Art of Poetry 1800-1950* (Wesleyan University Press) and co-editor, with M.L. Smoker, of *I Go to the Ruined Place: Contemporary Poets in Defense of Global Human Rights* (Lost Horse Press). She lives in the Elkhorn Mountains in southwestern Montana.



Visiting Writers: Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Gregory Pardlo & Tracy Kidder, and Megan Kruse, Ruth Ellen Kocher and Carmen Giménez Smith.

Listen to the visiting writer readings on soundcloud.

MFA Grad Students—



Aнна Blackburn won the 2017 Merriam-Frontier Award with her poetry collection "The Keeping House."

Sarah Aronson, Nate Duke and **Stephanie Pushaw** represented UM in the Regional MFA Reading for Get Lit! in Spokane.

Reneé Branum won the AWP Intro Journals Award in fiction. Her story, "Night Moves" will be published in the *Tampa Review*.

Connor McElwee's story, "A Good Night's Rest," is forthcoming in the spring issue of *Breakwater Review*.

Skylar Salvatore was selected by Eileen Myles for third place in the *Cosmonauts Avenue* Poetry Prize with "while you sleep, Idaho."

Grace Arena's chapbook, *they'll outlive you all*, is forthcoming from Dancing Girl Press.

KJ Kern's story, "Funeral Potatoes," won the Big Snowy Prize for Fiction.

Stephanie Pushaw has two pieces in the Los Angeles Review of Books – a review of Mary Ruefle's *My Private Property* and a review of Emma Rathbone's *Losing It*.

Sarah Aronson has poems published in *The Boiler* and *Pacifica*. Her poems are also forthcoming in the *Bellingham Review*, *Yemassee*, *Big Sky Journal*, and the *St. Petersburg Review*.

Liana Iman was given Honorable Mention in *Glimmer Train's* Very Short Fiction contest for "Coda: Four Boys." Her story, "Bartenders I've Known," was published in *Devil's Lake*, spring 2017.

Rebecca Durham has two poems accepted for publication: "I'm Ready to Tell You About the Bodies" is forthcoming in *Pilgrimage Magazine*, and "Cloud Seed, Condensation Nuclei, A Gathering Billow" is forthcoming in the *Riverfeet Press Anthology*.

Lauren Ward's story, "Received," was published in *Gulf Stream Magazine*.

Max Boyd will be teaching English in the Upper School at St. John's School in Houston, Texas.

Undergrad news-

Steven Abell has been awarded generous funding at Arizona State University to study poetry and earn an MFA.

Alumni News

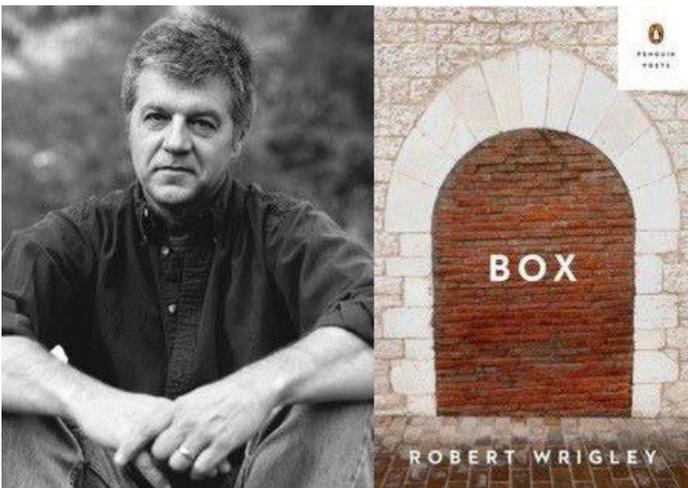


James Welch (MFA class of 1967) was inducted into the “Gallery of Outstanding Montanans” at the Capitol Rotunda.



Emily Ruskovich *Electric Lit* interviewed Emily Ruskovich (BA 2007) about her first novel, *Idaho*, (Random House, 2016). Smith Henderson has reviewed *Idaho* in the *New York Times*.

Justin Boening’s (BA 2007) debut collection of poems, *Not on the Last Day, But on the Very Last* (Milkweed Editions, 2016), was selected for the National Poetry Series by Wayne Miller. John Ashberry calls it “a stunning achievement.”

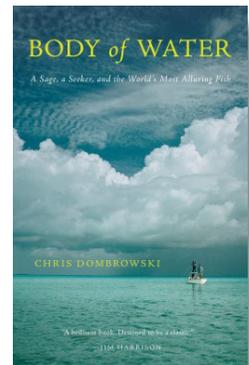


Robert Wrigley’s (MFA 1976) latest poetry collection, *Box*, has been published with Penguin/Random House.

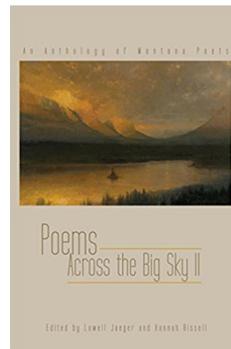
Emily Danforth’s (MFA 2006) YA novel *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* will be made into a movie starring Chloe Grace Moretz.

Lehua M. Taitano (MFA 2010) is the Community Outreach Coordinator on the Board of Directors for the Thinking Its Presence: Race and Creative Writing Conference, which will take place in Tucson, AZ this year.

Chris Dombrowski’s (MFA 2001) new memoir, *Body of Water*, was reviewed in *Forbes* and praised by Jim Harrison. Dombrowski served as the Distinguished Kittredge Writer for Environmental Studies in spring 2017.



Sharma Shields’ (MFA 2012) *The Sasquatch Hunter’s Almanac* won the 2016 Washington State Book Award.



Poems Across the Big Sky II features a number of creative writing alumni – Hannah Bissell, David Allan Cates, Sally Cobau, Michael Earl Craig, Carla Homstead and Karin Schalm celebrated the release with a reading in Turner Hall’s Dell Brown Room.

Kristen Gleason (MFA 2009) won The White Review Short Story Prize 2017 for her short story, *The Refugee*.

Rachel Richardson (MFA 2016) and **John Jepsen** (MA 2016) were married on February 8th in St. Augustine, Florida.



Film Studies

Film Studies Students Contributing to UM's Marketing Campaign

Sean O'Brien is once again teaching a class that is focusing on the production of promotionals for the University of Montana. This semester's class is working on four documentary-style videos featuring various programs at UM, including those designed to assist Native American students, veterans, and students with disabilities. The class is also putting together a video that will celebrate several programs at Missoula Community College as well as the opening of its new campus.



Film Studies Documentary Film Festival

Film Studies held its annual We Did It Ourselves Documentary Film Festival at the Crystal Theater on December 11, 2016. The five short films, received by an enthusiastic audience that packed the house, celebrated a variety of local characters worthy of a documentary – a superstitious hockey player, a gutsy female race car driver, a love-struck rock duo, and several activists in the transgender community. One particularly moving documentary featured the dedicated faculty and enthusiastic students of Arlee's Salish Language School.

Take a look at the Tribeca Film, **New neighbors Project Kickstarter Campaign**. In their voices, through their own eyes - self-directed refugee stories from the new American West. Every little bit helps. For more information, go to "Faculty member wins Prestigious Award" on page 9.



Irish Studies

Cuairt an Ambasadóra – The Ambassador's Visit

Ambassador Anne Anderson returned to Missoula on Friday to attend the President's Lecture. She addressed a woman's leadership forum on Saturday morning and shared the podium with the Governor of Montana, Steve Bullock, at the conference banquet on Saturday evening. Ambassador Anderson moved effortlessly among the attendees at the banquet, spoke eloquently on the importance of the relationship between Ireland and Montana, and felt very much at home and at ease among the Irish of this state. In her words, 'this is a visit I will never forget, and I will be back.'

The ACIS-West annual conference held in Missoula in October was a resounding success. It was described as setting 'a new gold standard,' 'as the best in the 32-year history of the event,' and 'as a conference and family reunion rolled into one.' As can be expected at this event, the quality of the papers, talks, and presentations was first class. It was, however, the involvement of the community that made it special. No one will ever forget the bus tour to Anaconda and Butte; the reception our visitors received in both these towns was unlike anything they had experienced. It was the community involvement that transformed this event into the 'family reunion' it became.

Special Guest Visiting Poet - Leanne O'Sullivan

The Irish Studies Program at the University of Montana, along with the Friends of Irish Studies, sponsored a visit to Montana by award-winning Irish poet Leanne O'Sullivan in April. She read at Missoula's Fact and Fiction, and at Butte Brewing Company in Butte, Montana.

O'Sullivan is a native of Beara Peninsula in West Cork, Ireland, which has a rich mining tradition. It has been the inspiration for much of her work, which includes three collections of poetry: *Waiting for My Clothes*, *Cailleach: The Hag of Beara*, and *The Mining Road*. Considering the long historical connection between Butte and Beara and the shared mining heritage, her poetry touched the people of Montana in a special way.



Campa Iománaíochta – Hurling Camp

This summer will see the first hurling camps organized to teach the finer skills of the game. There are two hurling camps: The first runs from June 5 – 9; the second from July 10-14. Visiting Fulbright Teaching Assistant at the University of Montana, Pa Sheehan, will instruct, with the assistance of members of the hurling community here in Montana. The course is designed to teach the techniques of the game and the best exercises for mastering them. The course is ideal for all hurlers, but will be of special benefit to those wishing to coach or train.

An Turas go hÉirinn – The Trip to Ireland

The annual Friends of Irish Studies trip to Ireland takes place again from 18 June – 27 June, 2017. The tour is designed to take you to the places the Irish themselves like to go, the less-publicized places of historical and natural beauty so dear to the hearts of many an Irish man and woman. You will meet the ordinary people of Ireland and enjoy their celebrated wit, humour, and generosity. There are still places open on the tour. For the full itinerary and to register, go to www.friendsofIrishStudies.com.

Literature & Composition

Literature Faculty–

Bob Baker has had several essays published this year, including one entitled, “Gravity and Grace: The Poems of Alice Oswald,” which appeared in the *Boston Review* this January. His paper “The Sprawling Genius of Thylas Moss” was published in *Religion and Literature* in the fall and “The Poetics of Encounter: Paul Celan’s ‘Psalm’ and George Oppen’s ‘Psalm’” will also be published in *Religion and Literature* this spring. Another essay about Alice Oswald is forthcoming in *Cambridge Quarterly* in June and his paper titled, “A Kinship between Air and Awareness: Mei-mei Berssenbrugge’s *Hello, the Roses*,” will appear in *ISLE* later this year.



Ashby Kinch was a Visiting Scholar and guest lecturer in Calgary, January 31st through February 2nd 2017. He delivered a lecture to the Medieval Miscere Colloquium, co-hosted by Mt. St. Mary’s University and University of Calgary, entitled, “Mixed (Up) Media: Chaucer and the Luttrell Psalter.” The lecture presented one part of a book project comparing Geoffrey Chaucer’s verbal artistry with a visual masterpiece, an illuminated manuscript, produced in the mid-14th century.

Casey Charles’s second novel, *The Monkey Cages*, has been accepted for publication by Lethe Press in 2018.

Nancy Cook presented her paper, “Outback Women in the American West: The Career of Eulalia Bourne,” in September and will present another, “Crossing Gender Boundaries in the Wilderness: Women in the Fire Lookout Towers of the American West,” this July to the Society for the Study of American Women Writers at the University of Bordeaux, in Montaigne, France. She will also deliver a lecture on Ivan Doig at a symposium this September. In addition to presenting her research around the globe, Nancy’s article, “Micromanaging and Macro Spaces: Cowboys, Cattle Ranching and Global Agricultural Practices” was accepted to the collection, *Thinking Continental*, the publication of which is forthcoming from the University of Nebraska Press.

Chris Knight will participate in a summer NEH Seminar, titled, “*King Lear* and Shakespeare Studies,” to be led by Renaissance scholar Dr. Richard Strier at the University of Chicago.

Henrietta Goodman’s (MFA 1994) sonnet sequence, *All That Held Them*, has won the John Ciardi Prize from BkMk Press and will be published in 2017.

Composition Faculty–

Erin Wecker, in collaboration with colleague, Patty Wilde (Washington State University) was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the *National Council of Teachers of English/Conference on College Composition and Communication* to fund their research project titled, “Considering the Context: A Study of Early College and College in the High School Programs.” Wecker published a chapter titled, “Fashion Forward?: Misogyny in American Fashion and Beauty,” in the collection *Misogyny in American Culture: Causes, Trends, Solutions*, under contract with ABC-CLIO publishers. Wecker was accepted to present her work at three conferences, *Writing Research Across Borders* in Bogotá, Columbia, *Conference on College Composition and Communication* in Portland, Oregon, and the *Biennial Conference of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric*, London, UK.



MA LIT Grad Students–

Briana Wipf has been selected as a finalist for the Best of GranCon Award for the Spring 2017 graduate conference at UM for her paper, “Ther Hewe Houndes on Cristen Men’: Reading Monstrosity and Contemplating Salvation in *The King of Tars*.”



Rachel Smith presented her paper, *Selling the “Bren” When “The Flour is Goon”: Grain Imagery, Sexual Commerce, and Eucharistic Corruption in the Canterbury Tales* at the 2016 New College Conference on Medieval and Renaissance studies in Sarasota, Florida.

English Teaching

Faculty–



Beverly Ann Chin presented at the Study of the US Institute on Secondary Education (hosted by UM Mansfield Center) and at the International Scholarly Exchange Curriculum Program (hosted by UM College of Education). In October, Chin presented at MEA-MFT Conference: “Teaching Dystopian Young Adult Literature” and “Reach Out and Touch Someone: Analyzing the Audience.” At the National Council of Teachers of English in Atlanta, Chin presented “Teacher-Leaders: Advocates for Students and Communities,” “Story Telling and Advocacy: Empowering Our Students and Ourselves through Writing” and “Creating Advocacy through Mentorship in English Education.” Montana English Journal (Fall 2016) re-printed her article, “Mentorship: The Gift of Service.”

Leanne Deschamps presented at the MEA-MFT Conference: “More than a Text Message: Teens Reading Books” and “Mentoring from Day One.” Deschamps also attended the Colorado Council of International Reading Association.

Mandi Klimpel attended the MEA-MFT Conference as well as the Indian Education for All Conference.

Dana Haring was named one of four finalists for the Norman Mailer Middle/High School Teacher Creative Non-fiction Writing Award for her personal essay, “Bedrock.”

Montana Writing Project will take place June 12 through June 23. Directed by Beverly Chin, the MWP will focus on Indian Education for All, writing across the curriculum, dual enrollment composition, writing assessment, and teaching for social justice. Over 20 educators (K-16 experienced educators and pre-service graduate students) will participate in the summer institute. The 2017 MWP Leadership Team includes Dana Haring, Leanne Deschamps, Mary Dea, and Rebecca Chatham. Nick Schulz, graduate student, is the MWP Coordinator.

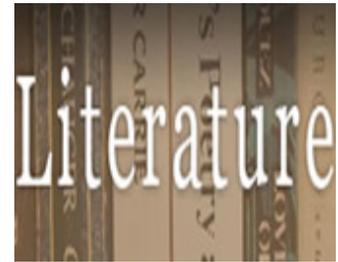
MA ENT Grad Students–

Blake Sherman was awarded the 2017-18 Paul Fawley Memorial Scholarship through the Department of Teaching and Learning in the College of Education. He will participate in this summer’s MWP.

Sean McConnaha, English teacher at Stanford High School, was named Speech Coach of the Year in the B-C Northern Division of Montana. He will participate in MWP this summer.

Heather Jurva has accepted an English teaching position at Capital High School in Helena.





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.

Join us on facebook:
University of Montana English Department
University of Montana MFA Creative Writing
Creative Writing at University of Montana
Friends of Irish Studies in the West (FISW)
Like our creative writing and Irish page for news.
Join discussion groups on facebook.



Designed by Leisa Greene
Edited by Beverly Chin, Karin Schalm & Rachel Smith
Photography by Adam Andis & Tom Bauer

