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Graduate English Program Newsletter

reMARKS

Alumni Profile

Jarrod Hurlbert

Q: When did you graduate from Boise State? What was your emphasis?

A: I graduated in the spring of 2006 with an M.A. in English, literature emphasis. My field of interest is the 18th century British Novel.

Q: What are you doing now in terms of either further academic work or a career?

A: I'm in my last year of course work at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and am preparing for the (DQE) Dissertation Qualifying Exam. I'm also a T.A., teaching two sections of first-year English. When time and the budget allows, I try to present papers at various conferences. This year I'll be joining Dr. Ann Campbell at the ASECS meeting in Richmond, VA. Last spring a paper I wrote was accepted by the British Women Writer's Association that met in Lexington, KY, but was unable to attend because of an airport closure. I'm also participating in Marquette's Preparing Future

Faculty workshops. These workshops help prepare graduate students for the multiple roles they will face as faculty members.

Q: How has the M.A. in English helped you and prepared you for your current line of work?

A: The M.A. and my teaching experience at BSU prepared me for course work at Marquette as well as teaching first-year English in a different program. In particular, many BSU faculty organized paper presentations in the classroom as a part of the seminar paper grade. This is something that Marquette faculty are now just incorporating into their seminars. I feel the classroom presentations at BSU helped me tremendously with writing and presenting conference papers not only in the classroom, but more importantly at official society meetings.

Q: Do you have any advice for current students on how to make the most of their M.A. experience (or anything you

know now that you wish you would have known then)?

A: The best piece of advice I can give to current students would be to help each other. Your graduate experience doesn't have to be all about competition. If you teach, share your syllabus and teaching ideas. Help each other and make it a positive experience. What I wish I would have known more about was the putting together of applications to submit to Ph.D. programs. The process is time consuming and a bit confusing. Each school requires different materials, and they are never quite clear when it comes to what they want. I think part of preparing an M.A. graduate should be showing them how to write a statement of intent. In some cases, a good statement of intent is more important than GRE scores and is something that admission committees seriously consider along with letters of recommendation.



Some Words From Our Director

Are You on Track?

As we approach the mid-way point of the Fall Semester, it's a good time to review your progress towards the degree and make sure that you are on track to completing the M.A. according to your desired timetable. Full-time students (those taking nine credit hours per semester) will typically finish the degree in four semesters. Those pursuing the degree part-time will have a less clearly defined number of semesters but since the requirements are the same it makes sense to review where you are and what remains.

If you don't already have a checklist that outlines the requirements for the degree, it would be a good idea to get one. These are available in the hanging folders outside of the M.A. Director's office (LA-205) and on the M.A. in English website. Go to <http://boisestate.edu/english/ma/Overview.html> and click on the relevant link for your degree emphasis (Literature, Education, Rhetoric & Composition) at the top of the page.

Students pursuing the degree full time who are now in either their first or second semester should be giving serious thought to what culminating activity will best suit them and their goals for the future. I'm happy to discuss this with you and review the different options available in the three emphasis areas. Those who intend to complete a thesis or project should begin giving serious preliminary thought to their research topic and potential supervisor. More advice on this can be found on the webpage by going to the M.A. Handbook (under Resources) and reading the article "To Thesis or Not to Thesis."

Students pursuing the degree full time who are now in their third semester and have chosen the thesis or project option should be conducting research and moving towards securing their supervisory committee's approval of the prospectus. Most of you will be enrolled in ENGL 595 – Readings & Conference to provide structure for these tasks. Keep in mind that if you plan to graduate in May 2009 the last day for the oral defense of your thesis or project is April 3, 2009. With your supervisor, you should use that date and plan backwards accordingly to devise a feasible timetable for completing your thesis or project and submitting it to the rest of your committee. If you haven't filed your Application for Admission to Candidacy form (due October 6, 2008) you should contact the Director of the M.A. immediately.

Matthew C. Hansen

Director, M.A. in English

Publications, Presentations, and Other Accomplishments Boise State University English Faculty and Students

Publications:

In May 2008, Oxford University Press added a new annotated edition of George Eliot's *Adam Bede* to their World Classics collection, edited by our very own Carol Martin, Professor of English.



MFA Graduate Al Heathcock's short story "Fort Apache" was recently published in Francis Ford Coppola's fall issue of *Zoetrope* magazine. The magazine may be found at local bookstores or you may view the full text of "Fort Apache" online at www.all-story.com.



Presentations:

Tom Hillard, Assistant Professor of English, presented a paper at the Western Literature Association conference in Boulder, Colorado last week called "Roanoke, the Lost Colony, and the Making of a Western American Literature."



Are You Publishing or Presenting?

Send us your accomplishments, publication information, or conference details!

Contact Hailey Grist at

haileygrist@u.boisestate.edu to include your information in the next edition of reMarks.

Announcement

Intellect and Faith, A New Forum For Graduate Students

Western universities privilege logical analysis as a way of knowing, but there are other ways of knowing. Many people in the university community are people of faith, holding a confident belief in a being beyond our logical understanding.

Intellect and Faith is a new group formed by and for graduate students to explore how people of faith function in a university environment. The group will meet for lunch one Saturday each month to consider how faith and intellect intersect in the university. If the university encourages students and faculty to bring their own experience into the classroom, how can religion be a part of that? What is appropriate and inappropriate in the classroom both as a student and as a teacher? When and where is it meaningful to discuss religion? And how? How can a person of faith integrate ideas born of thought and reading with tenets of faith?

People of all faiths are invited to join discussion of these topics. At some meetings we will invite speakers, and at other meetings we will hold focused discussions. The group will meet one Saturday a month for a light lunch at Linda Marie Zaerr's house, 1606 N. 8th Street, phone 384-5801. Plans for the spring will develop out of fall discussions. Meetings planned for Fall 2008 are as follows:

October 25	11:30-1:00	Initial Discussion
November 15	11:30-1:00	Faculty Panel
December 19	7:00-9:00	Holy Day Party

Please e-mail Linda Marie Zaerr at Lzaerr@boisestate.edu if you would like to attend the October 25 meeting.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the organization, please feel free to contact one of the organizers:

Heather Jennings – heatherherrick@gmail.com

Christy Vance – christyvance@boisestate.edu

Anna Warns – librigirl@gmail.com

Important Deadlines, Fall Semester, 2008

- October 6: Last day to submit Application for Admission to Candidacy Form to Graduate Admissions and Degree Services for graduate degrees to be awarded in May, 2009.
- October 15: Preview meeting of Spring 2009 Graduate course offerings. Meeting in LA-208 Conference Room beginning at 4:00 PM.
- October 17: Last day for final oral thesis or project defense for December graduation.
- October 27: Spring Semester registration for continuing students begins (check BroncoWeb for your appointment).
- November 24-30: Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 19: Commencement
- January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr./Idaho
Human Rights Day Holiday
(No classes – university offices closed)



reMARKS is a monthly publication of the English Graduate Program at Boise State University.

Faculty advisor:
Dr. Matthew Hansen

Contributors:
Hailey Grist
David Scott
Heather Jennings

Contact:
haileygrist@u.boisestate.edu

MA in English Website

<http://www.boisestate.edu/english/ma/>

Look here for deadlines for the M.A. program, future course offerings, M.A. program forms, travel policies, financial support and academic resources, links to professor profiles, the M.A. student handbook, links to campus organizations, and more.