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Alumni Profile

William John Silverman

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

A: I graduated May 2006. My emphasis was literature.

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

A: I am currently working on a PhD in English Literature at Florida State University, and I hope to finish in a little over a year. It is an exciting time in a dynamic and diverse department. I have worked with a lot of great scholars already: Bruce Boehrer, Elizabeth Spiller, Anne Coldiron, and Gary Taylor among others. Most recently I have had accepted for publication an essay on the cultural genetics of shame and guilt in *Paradise Lost*.

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

A: Well, without the MA, I wouldn't be in a PhD program. Mostly, I have some great faculty to thank for helping me prepare. My work in the Boise State Writing Center really helped me prepare for teaching, and Mike Mattison's constant encouragement to submit proposals to conferences helped me build up my CV with presentations and a publication. I would say that I really learned how to research thanks to some setbacks and pointed suggestions from Professors Steven Olsen-Smith and Matthew Hansen, respectively; and some professors always had a door open, like Jan Widmayer.

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: My best advice calls back to my previous answer: take advantage of every resource. The best resources for any graduate student are the professors that surround them on a daily basis. No one knows the state of the field, the job market, or what it takes to develop good scholarship better than those who are already doing it. If you plan on moving on to a PhD program, especially, pick their brains every chance you get, and don't hold back in your own work. When you have exhausted research on a topic, check a few more sources. But, perhaps most important, always, no matter how crazy or busy life gets, take time out for yourself. Take time to relax, blow off steam, play, and have as much fun as possible. Only then will your mind always have the energy and focus necessary to succeed.

Publications, Presentations, and Other Accomplishments

Boise State University English faculty and students

William John Silverman, Jr. (M.A. 2006) [See this month's Alumni Spotlight] is a Ph.D. student at Florida State University. William will take his preliminary exams in November and then begin his dissertation. His major focus is Renaissance literature with a secondary focus on seventeenth-century science, knowledge, and technology discourses. William had a short article on "Castration" published in *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Love, Courtship, & Sexuality Through History, Volume 3: The Early Modern Period* in December 2007; an essay on the cultural genetics of shame and guilt in *Paradise Lost* is forthcoming in the inaugural issue of *Latch* in November (<http://www.openlatch.com/>).



Elizabeth Chilbert (current M.A. student in Rhetoric & Composition) will present a paper, "The Effects of Humor on Place in Hemingway's Novels" at the What's So Funny: Work, Play and Humor in English Studies Conference at Ohio University in early October. Elizabeth will also participate in a poster session at the International Writing Center Association's annual meeting at the end of October in Las Vegas, Nevada. Her presentation at IWCA is entitled "The Writer's Tollbooth: Tokens to a Smooth Consulting Road."



Tiffany Tennant (current M.A. student in Literature) will also be travelling to Ohio for the What's So Funny: Work, Play and Humor in English Studies Conference. She will present her paper "History of the Janeite," an analysis of Jane Austen and popular culture.



Christy Claymore Vance (current M.A. student in Literature) will present her paper "Paradise

Sought, Found and Lost: California Temperament Scrutinized in Didion's 'Golden Land'" at the Western Literature Associations annual meeting in October in Boulder, Colorado.



Zach Koppelman (current M.A. student in Rhetoric & Composition) will present a paper on asynchronous audio e-mail consultations in writing centers at the International Writing Center Association's annual meeting at the end of October in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Mac Test (current assistant professor of English) is delivering a paper entitled "Making New World Publics: the Growth of Botanical Studies in 16th Century Europe" at a special Symposium at the Newberry Library in Chicago called "New Worlds, New Publics Symposium: Re(con)figuring Association and the Impact of European Expansion, 1500-1700" The Newberry Library, Chicago, September 25-27, 2008.

<http://www.newberry.org/renaissance/conf-inst/MakingPublics.html>



Words From Our Director

This promises to be an outstanding year for the M.A in English and the Department of English writ large at Boise State. We have two excellent new faculty members joining us: Mac Test in British Renaissance Literature and Jim Fredricksen in English Education. Both will be diving head first into graduate teaching, as is appropriate given their impressive preparation for the positions they are taking up. We bid farewell to an important force in Jan Widmayer. We say goodbye to Jim Maguire who valiantly filled in last year even in retirement. And we also say farewell to Marcy Newman, who has taken a position elsewhere. Stu Evett, although not a member of the graduate faculty will be missed – especially by the tremendous numbers of undergraduates he taught over the years. We will have the opportunity to hire for three positions in two areas this year: 20th/21st Century Anglophone Literature, and Linguistics. Two openings will be advertised in Linguistics: the first in General Linguistics, the second in Applied Linguistics.

The final portion of the good news above is tinged with sadness as the opportunity to hire not one but two positions in Linguistics comes as a result of the tragic loss of our colleague Mary Ellen Ryder to a devastating fire that ravaged nineteen homes in Southeast Boise and consumed the life of Mary Ellen.

Shocked and saddened, we go on as we must.

We welcome a fresh crop of graduate students, with ten new students enrolling in the M.A. in English Program:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Undergraduate Institution and Degree</i>	<i>Program</i>
Michael Baldwin	B.A., Boise State University	Rhetoric & Composition
Lauren Borsch	B.A., University of Portland	English Education
Annemarie Garcia	B.A., The University of New Mexico	Literature
Hailey Grist	B.A., Boise State University	Literature
James LeDoux	B.A., Boise State University	Rhetoric & Composition
Danielle Packard	B.A., College of Idaho	Literature
Jan Roser	B.S., Eastern Washington University	Rhetoric & Composition
Tiffany Tennant	B.A., Boise State University	Literature
Chalise Thomson	B.A., BYU - Idaho	Literature
Wendy Venable	B.A., Boise State University	English Education

This issue of reMARKS includes an alumni spotlight and a round up of the impressive activities of English Department Faculty and Graduate Students. If you have news to share for future issues, please be certain to send it in.

Matthew C. Hansen

Director, M.A. in English

Upcoming Important Dates, Fall Semester, 2008

- October 6th: 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 17th: Last day for final oral thesis or project defense for December graduation.
- October 27th,: Spring semester registration for continuing students begins. (Check your BroncoWeb account to view your registration date).
- November 24-30th: Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 19th: Commencement



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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.