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Graduate  
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Newsletter

# reMARKS

## Alumni Profile

### Christopher McGill

**Q:** When did you graduate from Boise State? Your emphasis?

**A:** May 2007, MA in literature

**Q:** What are you doing now?

**A:** PhD, Literature and Environment Emphasis, University of Oregon

**Q:** How has the MA in English helped you and prepared you for your current line of work?

**A:** My time in the MA program led directly into the work I'm doing now. Because of the breadth of its coursework, the MA program helped me to narrow my research interests, which allowed me to focus my work once here at Oregon. Since beginning the PhD, I've been able to take classes that re-

late to my subject areas. Because of the research I did for my thesis, I also had a clear sense of who I wanted to work with here. And the challenging intellectual atmosphere at BSU also prepared me for the rigors of the PhD. The people in the department at BSU really pushed me as a student. In each seminar I took during the MA, I was able to pursue my research interests in literature and environment, and the faculty I worked with were engaged, interested, and critical readers of my work.

The teaching training and experience and Writing Center work I received during the MA have also proven very, very valuable. The Writing Program at Oregon encourages a fairly formal, argumentation-based pedagogy, and the inquiry-

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## Announcing: A Calendar of Our Own

So much is going on in the English department at Boise State University, and now you can keep track of it all by linking to the English Events Google calendar at [http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ls3c\\_kussdd39cpk882aeqr1r0%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Denver](http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ls3c_kussdd39cpk882aeqr1r0%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Denver)

or by searching "Boise State University English Events" from your calendar page in Gmail. You can add the calendar to your own calendars on Gmail as well.

If you have an event to post, contact Heather Jennings at [englishevent@gmail.com](mailto:englishevent@gmail.com) with event description, time, location, and contact information.



## Publications, Presentations, and Other Accomplishments

### Boise State University English faculty and students

#### Janet Holmes

Janet's article "Zukofsky vs. Syntax," and poem "Cons/dole." appeared in *American Poet: The Journal of the Academy of American Poet*. [33 (Fall 2007) 3–6].

Jonathan Morse's article "This Page Intentionally Left Blank: Janet Holmes Formats Dickinson" with a response by Janet appeared in the *Emily Dickinson Bulletin* [19.2 (November-December 2007)].

Ten poems of Janet's poems from the manuscript "The ms of my kin" appeared in the *Notre Dame Review* [24 (Fall 2007)] and *Cocunut* [11 (January 2008)].

Janet also edited six books of poetry from Ahsahta Press, all of which are now available for purchase from the press's website:

<http://ahsahtapress.boisestate.edu>:

- *To and From* by G.E. Patterson, St. Paul, MN.
- *Irresponsibility* by Chris Vitiello, Durham, NC.
- *the true keeps calm biding its story* by Rusty Morrison, Richmond, CA.
- *Realm Sixty-Four* by Kristi Maxwell, Cincinnati, OH.
- *Dog Girl* by Heidi Lynn Staples, Rosslare, Ireland.
- *Sign* by David Mutschlecner, Los Alamos, NM.

Janet also gave thirteen readings from her

book *F2F* and lectures about small press publishing at places including the University of Wisconsin, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Naropa University, University of Colorado, University of Wyoming, Western Washington University, Ball State University, and George Mason University.



#### Bruce Robbins

Along with Maggie Chase, Bruce published "The D & D Boys: What's Wrong with This Picture?" *InLand* [27.1 (Fall 2007), 10-14].

Bruce edited a collection of teaching ideas for Idaho English teachers: *Teaching Ideas from ICTE*. Boise, ID: Idaho Council of Teachers of English, 2007.

Bruce's presentations include a paper with Don Evans titled "Using Film-making to Teach Literature" at the National Council of Teachers of English Convention, New York, NY, on November 16, 2007; "Composing Stories in Video," also at the National Council of Teachers of English Convention; and "Using Film-making to Teach Literature" at the Idaho Council of Teachers of English annual conference in Idaho Falls, ID on October 4, 2007.



#### Abigail Wolford

Abramelen Press is publishing an online chapbook of Abigail's poetry.

## Publications, Cont.

### Dennis Meier

Dennis, who graduated with his MA in technical writing in 2001, just passed his Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) Exam, making him a licensed professional engineer in the state of Idaho, thirty-one years after finishing his engineering degree.



Did we miss someone? If you or someone else in the English program at Boise State have published an article, presented at a conference, or accomplished other academic or professional achievements, please write and tell us about it!



## New Travel Policies

The English Department at Boise State has increased the funds available for students traveling to academic conferences. The new policies are as follows:

- Up to \$200, per student, can be awarded to attend a conference without presenting a paper.
- Up to \$300, per student, can be awarded to present a paper at any conference in the region: Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah.
- Up to \$300, per student, can be awarded to present a paper at any graduate student con-

## Alumni Profile, Cont.

### Christopher McGill

based teaching of writing that I developed while at BSU complements this emphasis on argument.

**Q:** Any advice for current students?

**A:** Embrace the range of coursework that the MA in Literature allows. Take advantage of the breadth of literary history that those courses make available. That is a seriously helpful quality of the program you're in that's not an element of all MAs. And, whether you're interested in an academic career or not, try to present a paper at a conference--and try to target a conference that mixes grad students and full professors. Presenting something you've worked on in front of a group of intelligent and critical strangers is a good experience for anyone.



ference outside the region.

- Up to \$500, per student, can be awarded to present a paper at any national or international conference outside the region.

Application for funds must be received no later than four weeks before intended departure for a conference, but it is best to apply for funds as early as possible, as funds may be exhausted by the year's end. You can find the application form and further details on the M.A. in English website:

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

## Important Deadlines, Spring Semester, 2008

**February 26, 2008** Last day to submit “Application for Admission to Candidacy” form to Graduate Admissions and Degrees (MS 1110, Business 117) for graduate degrees to be awarded in August 2008.

**March 3, 2008** Last day to add assessment, internship, or readings & conference for Spring Semester 2008.

**March 15, 2008** Last day for written comprehensive exams for graduate degrees to be awarded in May 2008 (applies only to MA in English, English Education candidates).

**March 19, 2008** 4:30 p.m. LA-208 Conference Room. Preview meeting for Fall Semester 2008 graduate course offerings. Meet the faculty teaching graduate level courses next semester and learn more about those courses. Meet and converse with faculty and graduate students during the Ice Cream Social following the meeting.

**March 31, 2008** Registration for continuing students begins for Fall 2008.

**April 4, 2008** Last day for oral thesis or project defense for May 2008 graduation.

**April 11, 2008** Last day to submit final, signed copies of your thesis or project to the Graduate Dean’s Office for May 2008 graduation.

**May 3, 2008** EGO Spring Graduation Banquet. More details to follow.

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## MA in English Website

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

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