



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Fall Course Descriptions
- Alumni Profile: Whitney Douglas
- Publications, Presentations, Achievements
- Spring Graduation Banquet

Graduate
English
Program
Newsletter

reMARKS

Alumni Profile

Whitney Douglas

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

A: I graduated in December 2002 with an emphasis in composition and rhetoric.

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

A: I'm finishing up a Ph.D. in English (composition and rhetoric with a specialization in women's and gender studies) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with the goal of a tenure-track job.

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

A: The MA in English was useful in preparing me to teach both composition and literature, which I do in my current program. Writing a master's thesis gave me the confidence to take on larger

research projects, i.e. the leviathan also known as a dissertation. While a direct track Ph.D. program works for some people, I found having the MA experience before going on for the Ph.D. to be invaluable in making the transition.

Q: Do you have any advice for current students on how to make the most of their MA experience (or anything you know now that you wish you would have known then)?

A: Since I planned to pursue a Ph.D., I would have spent more time picking professors' brains about issues of professionalization (publishing, academic conferences, networking, etc.) and how I could spin the work I was doing at BSU toward some of those ends and brainstorming to think about how to keep thinking about and carrying my research interests forward. Along those same Lines, I would have thought more about how I could
cont. page 5

Fall Preview

Course Descriptions

It's registration time again, and to help you decide what to take, we've gathered course descriptions from professors offering classes in the fall.

English 401/401G: Advanced Nonfiction Writing

Instructor: Karen S. Uehling
This course will focus on extensive journal writing from varied prompts. We will study writers' journals of the twentieth century; the range of journal approaches; how journal entries lead to professional writing though creative, analytical, and revision processes; and the many genres journals support. A special element will be journaling and writing about/for Special Olympics. This class will take a hybrid format, with about half of the classes in person and half online.
cont. page 4

Publications, Presentations, and Other Accomplishments

Boise State University English faculty and students

Bruce Ballenger

Bruce Ballenger's essay, "Donald Murray and the Pedagogy of Surprise" appeared in the January issue of *College English* 70.3 (2008): 296-303. His personal essay, "Theories of Intelligence," will appear in a forthcoming essay collection titled *Revelations* from Heinemann Publishers.

Matthew Hansen

Matt Hansen presented a paper on "Memory, Materiality, and Revenge in Kyd's *The Spanish Tragedy* and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*" as part of a Shakespeare Association of America Seminar on "Revenge Tragedy in the Twenty-first Century" at the annual SAA meeting in March in Dallas, Texas.

Students at Whitney Elementary will perform a one-hour version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Friday, May 2nd. This performance is a Service-Learning Project stemming from Matt Hansen's ENGL 346 Shakespeare's Comedies & Romances class. Anyone interested in attending the performance should contact Matt for further details at matthewhansen@boisestate.edu.

Tom Peele

On Saturday, March 22, Tom Peele presented his paper "Queer Images in Print Advertisements, 1900-1950" at the Conference of the Popular Culture Association in San Francisco.

Gail Shuck

Gail Shuck was one of twenty-four women selected as Women Making History, an annual honor sponsored by the Women's Center at Boise State and by the *Idaho Statesman*. The honoree reception was March 1st, 2008. Gail also received the award for the Best Arti-

cle of 2005-2006 in *WPA: Writing Program Administration*, and was presented with the award at the WPA Convention in Phoenix, AZ, in July 2007. The paper discussed the administrative and ideological challenges of integrating English language learners into first-year writing programs.

Gail will be presenting a paper at the Conference on College Composition and Communication on April 5, 2008, on a similar topic: "Educating Faculty across the Curriculum on Issues of Language in a Global Community." She will be talking about a new initiative being developed at Boise State—a working group of faculty exploring how to integrate students from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds into courses in various disciplines. Starting in the fall, Boise State will be offering "cross-cultural" sections in various courses in Biology, History, Communication, and English.

Tom Trusky

The screening for the recently restored Nell Shipman made-in-Idaho film, "The Grub-Stake" (1922) took place at Mary Pickford Auditorium at Claremont/McKenna College on Monday, March 31st. Introduction and Q&A following the screening was by Tom Trusky of Boise State University.

Shipman is the recently re-discovered Silent "Indie" writer, actor, director, editor and producer now being recognized for her humane treatment of animal actors, reverence towards nature, and insistence that films be shot on-location, not at back lots. Women are the heroes in all her films--assisted by animal co-stars. Long thought lost, "The Grub-Stake" is considered to be Shipman's magnum opus.

Publications, Cont.

Karen Uehling

Karen Uehling has a chapter titled "From Community College to Urban University: Beginning Writing Instruction for Diverse Students at Boise State University" in the book *Basic Writing in America: The History of Nine College Programs* released in March. The editors are Nicole Pepinster Greene and Patricia J. McAlexander, and the book is published by Hampton Press. For more information, visit <http://www.hamptonpress.com/Q108.htm#Q108>.

In addition, Uehling will attend the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in New Orleans in April where she will present at the Conference on Basic Writing (CBW) workshop as part of a team focused on "Creating a National Database about Basic Writing Programs, Students, and Faculty." Uehling will also present materials on online teaching techniques using adult learning principles at the "Teaching Adult Writers in Diverse Contexts" Special Interest Group.

Jana Edge

This past summer Jana Edge participated in a three-week NEH Summer Seminar for teachers on "Writing Africa" at Central Michigan University. More information about the seminar can be found at http://www.chsbs.cmich.edu/writing_africa/.

Marc Dziak

Marc Dziak has been accepted to the following Ph.D. programs in literature with full financial packages: Ohio University, Purdue, Case Western, Duquesne, University of South Dakota, Kent State, and Ball State. Marc graduated with his MA in English in 2007.

Chris Klingbell

MFA student Chris Klingbell has won an honorable mention for his story "Bandits" in *The Atlantic Monthly's* student writing contest. The contest winners and honorable mentions will be in the May issue of *The Atlantic*.

Zach Koppelman

Zach Koppelman presented a paper titled "Writing the Intimate Out Loud: When Writing Makes Writer or Consultant Uncomfortable" at the South Central Writing Center Associations Conference at the University of Oklahoma.

Mike Peterson

Mike Peterson has been accepted to the University of New Hampshire's Ph.D. program in composition with a four-year teaching assistantship. He is graduating from Boise State this spring with an MA in Rhetoric and Composition.

David Scott

David Scott presented a paper, "Female Narratives, Identity & Social Structures in *Jane Eyre* and *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*" at the 2008 Midwestern Conference on Literature, Language and Media at Northern Illinois University on February 29-March 1, 2008. David received a travel grant from the BSU English Graduate Student Travel Fund to support the presentation of his work.

MA in English Website

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

Fall Preview

Course Descriptions cont.

English 530-001: The Chicana Renaissance—Literature & Theory 1980 to present.

Instructor: Dora Ramirez-Dhoore.

This course will focus on the literature written during the Chicana Renaissance that was previously defined by the patriarchal discourse of the Chicano Renaissance of the 1960s and 1970s. This course will examine resistance and protest literature and the ways contemporary Mexican American culture is portrayed in literature, film, art, and cyberspace. Authors include: Sandra Cisneros, Denise Chavez, Ana Castillo, Gloria Anzaldua, Rodolfo Acuña, Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzalez, and Jose Villarreal.

English 530-002: American Realism

Instructor: Tara Penry

This course will explore definitions and relationships between American realism, naturalism, and regionalism. We will consider the role of periodicals in the development of literary forms during the period, and discuss the fiction and literary theory of writers such as Rebecca Harding Davis, Henry James, Edith Wharton, William Dean Howells, Charles Chesnutt, Sarah Orne Jewett, Stephen Crane, and Jack London. As a result of Prof. Penry’s expected maternity leave in mid-fall, this course will begin in July on Tuesdays and Thursdays, break in August, and resume for final workshops and discussions in late August and September. Students can choose to turn in the research paper in September or December. Contact tpenry@boisestate.edu with questions.

English 532: Form and Theory of Poetry

Instructor: Janet Holmes

In this course, we will look at poets’ writings about the art and craft of poetry—their own and others’. Texts under consideration include all or parts of Robert Duncan’s *Fictive Certainties*, Kathleen Fraser’s *Translating the Un-*

speakable, Ben Freidlander’s *Simulcast*, Allen Grossman and Mark Halliday’s *The Sighted Stranger*, Alice Notley’s *Coming After*, the personal writings of George Oppen, Joan Retallack’s *The Poethical Wager*, and Juliana Spahr’s *Transformation*. Assignments will include one critical paper and one Statement of Aesthetics (if one is an MA student) or Statement of Personal Poetics (if one is an MFA student).

English 534: Form and Theory of Creative Nonfiction

Instructor: Bruce Ballenger

Focuses on narrative methods in three sub-genres—essay, memoir, and literary journalism—through reading of representative works. The reading list will include Norman Mailer’s *Armies of the Night*, Maxine Hong Kingston’s *Woman Warrior*, Truman Capote’s *In Cold Blood*, Judith Ortiz Cofer’s *Silent Dancing*, Scott Sanders’ *Secrets of the Universe*, Joan Didion’s *Year of Magical Thinking*, Tobias Wolfe’s *This Boy’s Life*, Tom Wolfe’s *Electric Kool Aid Acid Test* and other readings of landmark creative nonfiction.

English 550 American Zionism

Instructor: Marcy Newman

Zionism is a European invention, inaugurated with Theodor Herzl’s *The Jewish State* (1896), his utopian, science fiction novel *The Old New Land* (1902), and the first Zionist Congress in Basel in 1897. However, specifically American forms of Zionism had been made planted on “American” soil from Christopher Columbus’ voyages to the “New World,” which were rooted in ideological beliefs about the recovery of Holy Land to the arrival of the pilgrims in the seventeenth century who sought freedom from religious persecution by creating a “little Israel” in what

became North America. Thus, Christian Zionism was present long before Jewish American Zionism became crystallized in 1914 in the context of World War One. The Zionism that we see affecting American foreign and domestic policy grew out of both Christian and Jewish ideologies that both perceive the land of the U.S. as the new Zion and have designs on the Holy Land. In this class we will examine the various formations of Zionism in the U.S. through literature, film, politics, and history to better understand the way Zionism shapes the U.S. and the Middle East.

English 561: Theories of Rhetoric and Composition

Instructor: Michael Mattison

A study of the theoretical context of current writing and writing pedagogy. Influential theories of invention, arrangement, and style, from ancient and modern times, are examined and compared. Special attention is paid to the relationships of current rhetorical and cognitive theories to writing processes and written products.

English 563: The Theory and Teaching of Basic Writing

Instructor: Karen Uehling

This course is designed especially for the MA in English with emphasis in Rhetoric and Composition and community college teaching focus. In this theory and teaching course, students will study the history of basic writing and the impact of open admissions policies on the teaching of composition, and will survey various pedagogies and connect them with methods and strategies used for teaching basic writing. This course is partly a response to current hiring trends for English graduates; many teaching positions now request experience in basic writing.

English 500: Research Methods in Literary Studies

Instructor: Dr. Jacky O'Connor

This course will introduce students to the methods, tools, and resources for advanced study in literature. Class time and assignments will include both theoretical and practical topics and tasks, and students will have the opportunity to develop, in consultation with the instructor, a research project of their own choosing.



Alumni Profile

Whitney Douglas cont.

connect seminar projects in various classes - from composition theory to literature seminars - to my research interests. And I wish I would have known that for only \$35 + shipping and handling, I could procure my very own adult-sized hippity hop, which is the best grad school stress relief ever!

(Current grad school students can purchase their very own adult-size "hippity-hop" ball at http://www.jumpingballs.com/Jumping_Balls_hop_Ball_hoppity_s/1.htm.)

Important Deadlines and Events

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 thesis or project to Graduate Dean's Office for May 2008 graduation.

May 3, 2008: EGO Spring Graduation Banquet. Tickets will go on sale after Spring Break. Tickets are FREE for those who will be completing their graduate degrees this semester. See box below for more details.

May 9, 2008: Classroom instruction for Spring 2008 Semester ends.

May 17, 2008: Spring Commencement

August 25, 2008: Fall Semester classes begin

For more information on other English events at Boise State University, link to the English MA calendar at http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ls3c_kusdd39cpgk882aeqr0%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Denver or search for "Boise State University English Events" from your calendar page in Gmail. You can add the calendar to your own calendars on Gmail as well.



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

Faculty advisor:
Dr. Matthew Hansen

Contributors:
Zan Cammack
Diane Neu
Zach Koppelman
Heather Jennings

Contact:
heatherherrick@gmail.com

EGO Spring Graduation Banquet

Date: Saturday, May 3

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Smoky Mountain Pasta and Pizza on Park Center Blvd.

Tickets: Free for graduating MAs and MFAs (not to be confused with those graduating with their BA in English). \$15 for other students who wish to attend and for friends and family of graduates (graduates are highly encouraged to buy tickets for spouses, family, etc.). \$20 for faculty. Tickets go on sale at the beginning of April