

Musings and goings-on from the **Department of English & Philosophy**

Susan Swetnam Retires, But Won't Be Resting on Her (Many) Laurels



Swetnam has been the only winner of all three distinguished faculty awards at ISU: Teaching, Public Service, and Research

Susan Swetnam, Professor of English, will be retiring at the end of spring semester, although she will not be slowing down at any time in the near future. She will be continuing to direct dissertations, hopes to keep teaching a class a year at ISU, and will carry on with her prolific writing. Currently, she has two book manuscripts waiting for final edits as well as a third at the proposal stage and two articles in the works, and plans to return seriously to writing about food. In addition, she will also be starting a new career as a

volunteer massage therapist, working especially with premature babies and geriatric patients. [Swetnam, page 4 . . .](#)

“Film and Literature” Theme Connects Spring Classes and Events

At the beginning of the Fall 2012 semester the Department of English and Philosophy surveyed English students about their course interests and discovered that many have an interest in how narrative is told through film. As a result, several literature and film courses were offered during spring semester 2013 — Art of Film, The Spy Novel and Spy Film from James Bond to Johnny English, Posthumanity in Science Fiction Film and Literature, and Film Adaptation. To augment students’ classroom experience, a series of events was planned. [Film and Literature, page 4 . . .](#)

English PhD Graduate Wins Award, Receives Grant

Tiffany Brooke Martin’s time in the PhD program has included everything from research in Oxford, England, to assisting with the editing of a prestigious journal. [Martin, page 6 . . .](#)



*Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in Guangzhou, China.
[See Visiting Scholar, page 9.](#)*

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Postings contains notes and updates that reflect the activities of the department. It also provides information about upcoming events and other items of interest.

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Message from the Chair

Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Professor of English

The Numbers and the Narrative

Addressing us at the Association of Departments of English Summer Seminar in Boulder last June, Neal A. Lester, Associate Vice President for Humanities and Arts and Professor of English at Arizona State University, pointed to the need for departments in the humanities to master and present both “the numbers and the narrative.” Having had a review of both our English and our Philosophy undergraduate programs conducted recently, in which the “culture of assessment” was a focus, I’ve recalled Lester’s address. One of our reviewers in English, Joel Bettridge, Associate Professor of English at Portland State University, asked me how I define assessment. I responded with the idea that we can take a wider and a narrower view of the process. Viewed narrowly, assessment is the attempt to measure students’ learning of knowledge and skills. Viewed very broadly, assessment is a process in which evaluations are turned into numbers. These numbers can be explanatory if we carefully interpret them in context, using them to construct a meaningful narrative. On both ends of this process, numbers are bracketed with evaluation and interpretation, processes with which we in the humanities should feel comfortable.

Interesting numbers and narratives emerged from the information assembled in the program review. I look forward to hearing Bettridge’s response and also that of the internal reviewer, Nancy Legge, Professor of Communication and Rhetorical Studies. Meanwhile, let me share some of the information:

Our English and Philosophy BA degree programs remain very healthy, with steady numbers of graduates over the seven-year review period of 2005-12 (total 35 in 2005/36 in 2012), yet we are teaching our majors with fewer tenure-track faculty (29 in 2004/24 in 2012). Our classes are larger and we are working harder as a consequence. Additionally, we are scheduling the majors in English and Philosophy with optimal efficiency. The resulting restriction of choices for our majors may frustrate some of our students.

At the same time that the undergraduate programs have remained stable, our English graduate program, our composition courses, and our general education teaching have grown. While the last of these areas may experience a slight reduction with the new general education objectives, there is no indication that composition courses will shrink in number. Currently and not surprisingly, English and Philosophy top the college’s list of total credit hours generated with 28,367 undergraduate credit hours in FY2012, up from 24,168 in FY2006.

English graduate education has potential for growth both in the English MA and in our plan to expand the TESOL programs to include an MA in Applied Linguistics. In 2005 we granted 6 MAs and DAs; in 2012, 16 MAs and PhDs.

[Message, page 3 . . .](#)

Message from the Chair continued from page 2

And, we are developing the already-established pipeline into the MA with Brigham Young University-Idaho (BYU-I) through a 4/1 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that we hope to expand to Applied Linguistics. Currently, 13% of our graduate students took prior degrees at BYU-I, and we have just admitted additional BYU-I students in the cohort entering in Fall 2013.

As with the BA degrees, we are running our English graduate program and our composition/English general education teaching with fewer English graduate faculty (23 in 2004/19 in 2012) and many fewer lecturers in English (18 in 2004/11.5 in 2012). Our graduate seminars are filling and hence we are working harder in additional graduate credit hours (542 in 2006/695 in 2012) as well as thesis and dissertation direction. Our scheduling of graduate seminars is optimally efficient: students have a sufficient number of seminars and are able to complete their programs, but their choices are restricted usually to just 4-5 seminars per semester.

Another number and accompanying narrative that points to our English graduate faculty's hard work over the past seven years is the increased research that they have completed. Here I can point to our peer-reviewed publications. For the reviewers I compiled a bibliography of publications by English faculty for the period 2005 through August 2012, including what we know about formally accepted forthcoming publications. I was astounded by and very proud of the resulting list, as well as a little keyboard-sore: The 8½-page document listed 9 books; 3 edited anthologies/editions; 40 journal articles; 19 book chapters; 13 encyclopedia articles; 16 other peer-reviewed essays, introductions, teaching guides, and other forms of publication; and for our creative writers, 18 poems, stories, and magazine articles. By any measure, given our current teaching load, this is a commendable record. More striking is the number and range of important presses and journals where this work has appeared: Routledge, University of Minnesota Press, and traditional English journals such as *Modern Philology*, as well as journals that engage with other scholarly disciplines and a broader public: *Gastronomica* and *Raritan*.

These publications point not just to our graduate faculty's hard work but also to areas of research strength. Generally, we see strong publication records among our specialists in British literature, 20th-century and contemporary literature (mainly American but with some global reach, especially in postcolonial/SF/fantasy), literature and culture of the American West, creative writing, and linguistics/language studies. Sprinkled across the list, too, are several pedagogical publications that reflect our focus on the teaching of English.

The numbers and the narrative give us much to celebrate. With the reports coming to us soon from reviewers and the results of our discussions over the past year, we have much to carry forward into 2013-14 as a basis for shaping our plans for the coming decade.



Postings

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Russell Studies Russell

Russell Wahl, Director of Philosophy, writes from McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, where he where he is the Bertrand Russell Visiting Professor of Philosophy this semester:

I've been working at the [Bertrand Russell Archives](#), mostly on Russell's epistemological work from 1911 to 1921, during which time he developed his theories both of our knowledge and of the physical world of which we have some knowledge. While he published several works in these years, he also changed his mind on some key issues. A large part of my focus involves trying to figure out the reasons for those changes. I have been able to uncover here several private letters which talk about these issues and a very well kept set of notes taken while Russell was lecturing at Harvard during the spring of 1914. As I also signed up to do a review of a work on the second edition of *Principia Mathematica*, I spent some time looking at the manuscript material associated with this edition. On March 1, I presented a paper to the faculty at McMaster University, "Russell's Rejection of Sense Data."



Left to right: Arlene Duncan, of the Bertrand Russell Research Centre, Nicholas Griffin, Professor of Philosophy at McMaster, Russell Wahl, and Andrew Bone, also of the Research Centre. The photo was taken at the Research Centre where we are drawing a name from a hat for a prize for people who renewed membership in the society on time.

Swetnam continued from page 1

Swetnam came to ISU in 1979 directly after receiving a PhD from the University of Michigan, where she'd been a Rackham Scholar. As she recalls, "I had never been west of Kalamazoo when I was flown out for my interview . . . and I was the second choice!" While at ISU, Swetnam has served the Department of English and Philosophy as Director of Composition, Director of Graduate Studies, Director of Undergraduate Studies, and Assistant Chair. She has also been Chair of the Faculty Senate, Chair of the Faculty Professional Policies Committee, and Chair of the General Education Requirements Committee.

To date, Swetnam has published six books. Her collection of essays, *Home Mountains*, was honored as a runner-up and the best work of nonfiction in the Idaho Book of the Year 2000 contest, and her 2012 publication, *Books, Bluster and Bounty: Local Politics and Carnegie Library Building Grants in the Intermountain West*, has also been entered in that contest. Her 2007 release, *My Best Teachers Were Saints*, has sold over 21,000 copies for Loyola Press. In addition, she has published many magazine articles and academic articles as well as works of creative nonfiction, which she has shared in local readings every year for the past 30+ years. Highlights of magazine work include publications in *Gourmet* (including lead travel articles) and *Mademoiselle*.

Over the course of her professional life, Swetnam has acted as Chair of the Idaho Humanities Council and has also served that organization frequently as a project scholar. "I consider the heart of my career," she affirms, "to have three parts: teaching, writing, and public humanities work." Her wide-ranging public service has also involved work with the Silver Sage Girl Scout Council — including leading a troop for eight years, sitting on the Board of Directors, writing a centennial history of Girl Scouting in southern Idaho, and curating an exhibit at the Idaho State Historical Museum last year. In addition, she has been a longtime volunteer firefighter and is now serving as a cantor at the Holy Spirit Catholic Community.



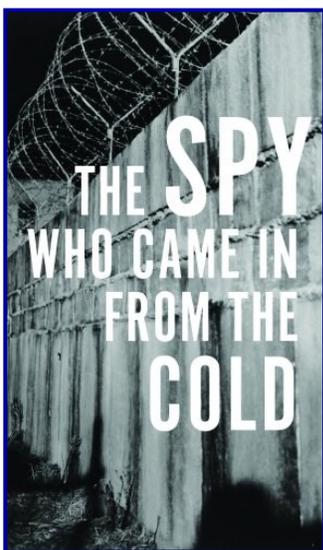
Film and Literature continued from page 1

Coincidentally, the Department of Languages and Literatures had also scheduled a Detective Fiction in Literature and Film course taught with a Spanish focus. With funding from both departments and grants from the College of Arts and Letters' Cultural Events Council (CEC) and the Idaho Humanities Council, a week of film showings, lectures, and discussions on film and literature was presented. The series, "Hard Boiled: Global Detectives and Spies," ran March 17-21, culminating in the March Humanities Café. In addition, the Department of English and Philosophy joined with the Department of Anthropology, with the help of the CEC and the American Studies Founders' Fund, to bring a film scholar who is expert in American Indian filmmaking and science fiction to campus. [Film and Literature, page 5 . . .](#)

Film and Literature

continued from page 4

The Detectives and Spies events included a visit by **John Scaggs**, Professor of English at Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, an expert in detective fiction whose book *Crime Fiction* (2005) has become a main guide to the genre. Another visitor was **Thomas Sobchack**, Professor Emeritus of English and of Film and Media Arts at the University of Utah, whose film study introductory textbooks are well known throughout the field. Scaggs' lecture on the history of detective/spy fiction, "Reading Crime and Restoring Order: The International Importance of Crime Fiction," was well attended



by a mix of students, faculty, and the public, and generated a lively discussion. Sobchack joined **Alan Johnson**, Associate Professor of English, and **Dan Hunt**, Associate Professor of Spanish, presenting in the Humanities Café, "Ambiguities of Crime and Violence in the Detective/Spy Genre," where another animated discussion took place. The series of events also included showings of recent and classic films —

Arbitrage, *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*, and *Headhunters*, and Scaggs generously was a guest speaker in three courses. **Pamela Park**, Chair of the Department of Languages and Literatures, deserves credit for spearheading the planning and grant-writing for these events. She had assistance from **Jennifer Eastman Attebery**, Chair of English and Philosophy.

On April 18-19, **Grace Dillon**, Associate Professor of Native American Studies at Portland State University, visited our courses in Posthumanity in Science Fiction Film and Literature and presented in the Department of Anthropology's colloquium series. An expert in indigenous film and science fiction, Dillon has studied how American Indians and First Nations peoples use film and literature to imagine the future. As with the Detective and Spies week, Dillon's visit drew a mixed audience of students, faculty, and the public. Her visit was coordinated by **Chris Loether**, Professor of Anthropology and American Indian Studies Program Director, and **Brian Attebery**, Professor of English.



New Director of Composition

Margaret Johnson, Professor of English, has been appointed to serve as Director of Composition, replacing **Susan Swetnam**, who is retiring at the end of spring semester ([see article on page 1](#)). Johnson has been interested in composition administration and pedagogy for more than twenty years. While working on an MA in English at San Jose State University, she served as the Assistant to the Director of the San

Jose Area Writing Project, helping to organize and conduct workshops for middle school, high school, and college writing teachers. While in the doctoral program at the University of Oregon (UO), she served as Assistant Director of the Composition Program; then after completing her PhD, she served as the Associate Director of Composition. In these positions, she helped to organize an annual writing conference for UO graduate students, mentor new writing teachers, and aid in the overall administration of the university's composition program. At ISU, she previously served as Director of Composition for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Her connection to the fields of composition and pedagogy also extends to her research. Among her publications is the article "Silenced by Religion: Reflections on Situations from College English," which addresses the pedagogical challenges that arise between teachers' efforts at creating inclusive learning environments and the resistance of some students due to particular types of religious resistance. She has also authored the *Instructor's Manual* for the 3rd edition of the composition textbook *Shape of Reason*, and she is currently co-authoring a literature textbook tentatively titled *Literary Studies: A Practical Guide*.

Starting in the fall, Johnson will be working with the Composition Committee to consider the possibility of creating a collection of student writing for use in our classes, to develop a teaching workshop for faculty and graduate students at the start of each academic year, and to begin the development of a central collection of teaching materials for writing classes, among other plans.



Postings

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from the

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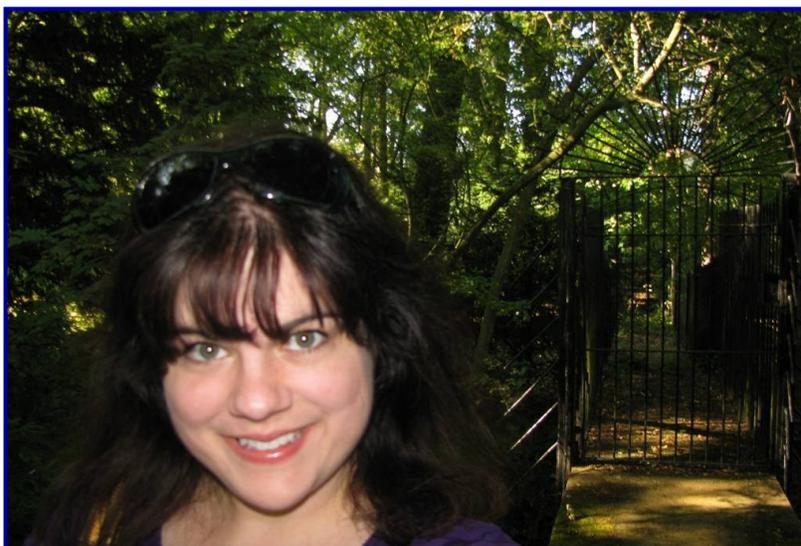
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Martin continued from page 1

Special congratulations go to Martin, who will be graduating with a PhD in English and the Teaching of English this May. While in the doctoral program, she completed a graduate certificate in TESOL, served as EGSA’s secretary for two years, and was a writing and language tutor at the Student Success Center. A major highlight of her time at ISU was working as editorial assistant for three years with her advisor, **Brian Attebery**, Professor of English, on the *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*. The “grace and efficiency” with which she did her work in this position, according to Attebery, was a deciding factor in the issuance of a commendation and honorarium for outstanding service to the organization by the Board of the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts.



Tiffany Martin, Addison’s Walk, Magdalen College, Oxford, England

Growing up in Memphis, Tennessee, Tiffany recalls an early passion for reading and writing stories and poems, among other interests. Though a doctorate in veterinary medicine was a strong consideration, she pursued a bachelor’s degree in English and then completed her master’s degree in Irish Studies at Catholic University in Washington, DC, which involved time in Ireland.

During her first semester at ISU, Martin came upon the topic that would be her dissertation “‘For the Future’: Consciousness, Fantasy, and Imagination in Owen Barfield’s Fiction.” This was during a class research project for **Alan Johnson**, Associate Professor of English, that she developed on two of Barfield’s novellas. (Her interest in Barfield began via his connection with C. S. Lewis — reading *The Chronicles of Narnia* as a child and being introduced to Lewis, and consequently to Barfield and certain other writers, was pivotal in several ways and continues to be.)

[Martin, page 7 . . .](#)

Martin continued from page 6

Wanting to explore Lewis and Barfield's friendship further, and realizing there was limited scholarship about Barfield's fictional writings, she expanded her class project into her dissertation proposal. Specific personal connections with Barfield, such as sharing the same birthday (though many years apart), strengthened Martin's interest in studying his life and works.

Thanks to a research grant from ISU's Humanities and Social Sciences Research Committee and the permission of Barfield's grandson and literary trustee, Owen A. Barfield, Martin visited the Bodleian Library (University of Oxford, England) to research Barfield's papers, many of which are unpublished. Besides providing a wealth of information for her dissertation, her research has led to other opportunities, such as transcribing unpublished documents and writing material for the Owen Barfield Literary Estate's website. Attebery praises this work, saying: "Her dissertation will form the basis of a book that I expect to attract attention from students of early-twentieth-century literature and intellectual culture, as well as devotees of Tolkien and Lewis."

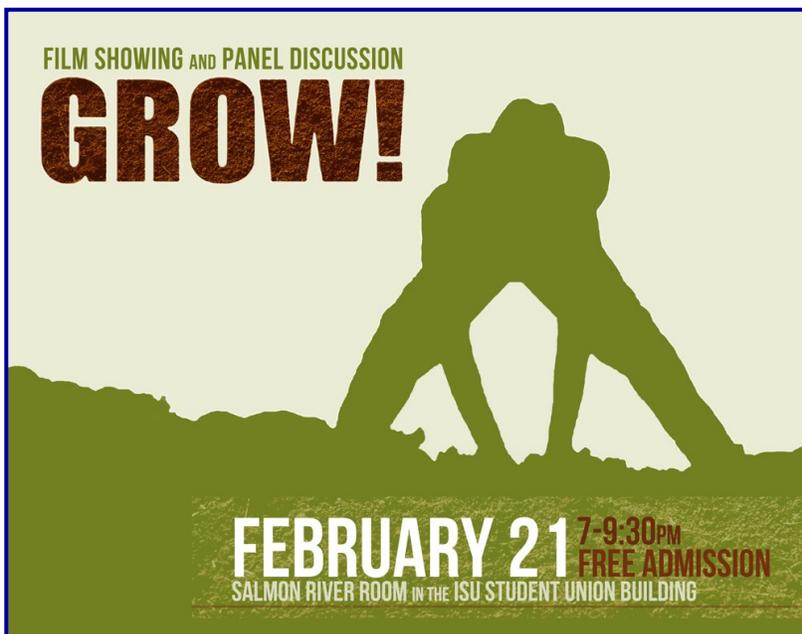
Martin is extremely appreciative of those who have encouraged and supported her over the years during her education. As for post-graduation plans: she is looking for a job, preferably one that involves research, writing, and editing.



Presentations Spice Up Semester

In addition to the events in the "Film and Literature" series ([see article on page 1](#)), this spring the Department offered a varied slate of presentations that provided highlights to the semester, including the following:

On February 21, the Department of English and Philosophy and the Portneuf Valley Audubon Society co-sponsored a showing of **Grow!, a new documentary film** about a group of young farmers in their twenties and thirties who practice sustainable agriculture in the state of Georgia. Following the hour-long film, **Curt Whitaker**, Associate Professor of English, moderated a panel discussion that considered sustainable growing in Idaho and the level of environmental activism among the Millennial Generation. The panel included local growers **Jessica McAleese** and **Jeremy Shreve** of LadyBird Farms in Pocatello and **Kamren Koompin** of Koompin Farms in American Falls. **Steven Hall**, PhD Candidate in English, brought a literary perspective to the discussion, drawing on his study of farmers in American literature of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.



On February 26, **Alison Hagy**, Professor of English at the University of Wyoming, **gave a reading from her work** at the Bengal Cafe in the Pond Student Union. Her recent publications include the novels *Boleto* (2012) and *Snow, Ashes* (2007), and also a collection of short stories, *Ghosts of Wyoming* (2010). Awards include an NEA Fellowship, a Christopher Isherwood Foundation Fellowship, a Pushcart Prize, inclusion in *Best American Short Stories*, and the High Plains Book Award for Fiction.

On March 8, **Mac Test**, Assistant Professor of English at Boise State University, presented a lecture on "**Mexican Featherwork and the Indigenization of European Culture, 1500-1650.**" [Presentations, page 8 . . .](#)

Congratulations to All English & Philosophy 2012-2013 Graduates!

Graduate Students Receiving Degrees:

Fall 2012

TESOL: Caroline Wight

TESOL and MA:
Emily Treasure

Spring 2013

PhD: Tiffany Martin

MA:

Charissa Brammer

Jason Clark

Lalove Foster

Pamela Knight

David Koffer

Richard McOmber

Lisa Plaster

Ryan Topper

Diane Yerka

Stay tuned to
future *Postings*
for Summer and
Fall 2013 graduates!

Presentations continued from page 7

Since Columbus's first encounter with Amerindians, the feather has become one of the predominant descriptive features of American indigenous peoples. Over the years, feathered objects were exported to Europe for adorning hats, dresses, military helmets, tourney and procession horses; feathers were collected in curiosity cabinets, headdresses were used in theatrical productions, Mexican feather paintings decorated aristocratic walls, and Catholic bishops in Europe wore Mexican feather miters. Feathers did not simply improve the quality of life in Europe, they altered it, and altered the people. In this talk, Test considered how the New World feather retained its original American meaning of divinity in Christian-themed feather paintings and English literature, emphasizing how Amerindians, particularly from Mexico, ultimately indigenized European culture and art.



On April 12 **Matthew VanWinkle**, Assistant Professor of English, presented a colloquium on his studies of the work of British poet Christina Rossetti, **"'Yea, if I love I will not grudge you this': Exhumation, Dialogue, and Crossed Affections in Christina Rossetti's 'By Way of Remembrance'."** The presentation featured a close look at a quartet of sonnets unpublished in Rossetti's lifetime, which seemingly drew together two strands of her career often considered discretely: a searching theological intelligence, and a testing romantic diffidence. The result is poignant but perplexing. A slighted speaker expresses recrimination and the hope of reconciliation, a hope set against, or alongside, eerie speculations on how Christian souls come to their posthumous reward. In an effort to shed light on this perplexity, VanWinkle has looked at the sonnets, "By Way of Remembrance," within both more immediately biographical and more publicly literary contexts. The overlapping of these contexts, he suggests, drives Rossetti's confrontation with urgent emotional and spiritual aspirations that may ultimately lie beyond the reach of a mutual embrace.



Visiting Scholar Studies Second Language Acquisition

Kathy Di Zhang, a visiting scholar from China, will be in the Department of English and Philosophy through September, doing research on second language acquisition and development, particularly on the effectiveness of corrective feedback. She will be working with **Brent Wolter**, Associate Professor of English. Zhang is from the School of International Business English, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (GDUFS), in Guangzhou, Guangdong province in Southern China.

Her visit is funded by the China Scholarship Council (CSC), a Chinese non-profit organization. The CSC provides financial assistance to Chinese citizens wishing to study abroad and to foreign citizens wishing to study in China in order to develop the educational, scientific and technological, and cultural exchanges and economic and trade cooperation between China and other countries, to strengthen friendship and understanding between the Chinese people and the



Kathy Di Zhang

people of all other countries, and to promote world peace.

At home in China, Zhang teaches general English at GDUFS and is a PhD Candidate in Second Language Acquisition at the National Key Research Center for Linguistics and Applied Linguistics located there. She reports that she is "very glad to be here," and wishes to thank Department Chair Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Brent Wolter, and all the staff in the Department and in the International Studies office who have given her such a warm welcome and have been so helpful.



*Guangdong University
of Foreign Studies (GDUFS)*

Department Sketches

This Issue: Tom Pfister

Tom Pfister is a
Senior Lecturer in English

I came to ISU in 1996 after finishing my PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where I specialized in Restoration and 18th-century British literature. As a graduate assistant, I taught ESL for three years. I have a minor in composition theory and another minor in classics. Besides literature, especially 18th- and 19th-century British literature, my interests include



Tom Pfister

the arts and foreign languages. Before working on the PhD, I earned an MS in Advertising at the University of Illinois and spent six years at an advertising agency in Chicago where I worked in media planning.

While teaching here at ISU I earned an MFA in Printmaking (in 2007) and have taken several courses in Spanish, German, Russian, and Japanese. My one regret in life is that I have never spent any appreciable time abroad – I would like to be fluent in a foreign language and understand a foreign culture firsthand. I fantasize about living in Kyoto, St. Petersburg, or Rome.

Since I first started teaching at ISU, I have taught English 1102 more than 100 times – this is what accounts for any traces of madness in my behavior. For the last few years, I have focused on writing fiction, and hopefully a few of my stories will be published in the near future. I enjoy practicing the piano (mostly Bach and Chopin), playing bridge, and flower gardening. I have an anti-pathology for politics, sports, crowds, 20th-century literature, and the out-of-doors (other than walking through it – quickly).



Faculty Focus

Research • Publications
Awards • Activities

Susan Goslee, Bethany Schultz Hurst, and recent graduate **Jen Hawkins** gave readings at the May Swenson Centennial Celebration at Utah State University, Logan, on April 9.

Hal Hellwig's article, "William Blake's Jerusalem and the Los Angeles of Film Noir," has been accepted by *Literature and Philosophy*.

Alan Johnson participated in an ISU team on a visit to academic institutions in India in February. He will present a paper at the Association for Studies in Literature and Environment (ASLE) biennial conference held this year at the University of Kansas, May 28-June 1. In addition, he guest-edited the March 2013 issue of *Journal of Contemporary Thought*, based at the University of North Texas and Baroda's Centre for Theory.

Thomas Klein has just returned from a Humanities/Social Science Research Committee (HSSRC)-sponsored trip to the United Kingdom, where he visited museums and archives in London, Oxford, and York, observing such outstanding Anglo-Saxon artifacts as the Beowulf manuscript, the Franks Casket, and the Alfred jewel. Klein also presented a paper at the annual Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association (RMMRA) conference in Denver, CO, April 12-13. He is president of the association.

Sonja Launspach's article, "The Journey to Idaho: The Use of Oral History Tapes and Census Data to Trace the History of Regional Dialect Features," was published in *Idaho Yesterdays* 53.1/2 (2012).

Angela Petit presented "No Writing Program Is an Island" at the College Composition and Communication Conference (4C's) in Las Vegas on March 14 and also chaired two sessions.

Penelope Reedy has revived her popular newspaper column, "My Private Pocatello." It is being published monthly in *The Bannock Alternative*, a local free alternative publication.

On February 21, **James Skidmore** spoke on the "Historical and Moral Dimensions of Human-Animal Relations" at the Humanities Café presented by Idaho State University's Committee for the Study of Violence, Conflict, and War in Society. In an effort to better understand human-animal relationships, Skidmore examined some prominent theories of morality and the challenges they face in providing an adequate account of the moral status of animals and of human beings. The Humanities Café series is supported by a grant from the College of Arts and Letters.

Michael Stubbs' essay, "In the Mountains, No One Can Hear You Swear," was published in the September 2012 *Sunstone*.

Susan Swetnam presented the keynote address at the Native American Symposium in Rawlins, Wyoming, on April 19. Her talk, based on a chapter she wrote several years ago for the Greenwood Press American Regional Cultures Encyclopedia series, was titled "Sustaining More than Life: Foodways and Native American Identity."

Curt Whitaker's essay, "Fairfax, Marvell, and the Mowers of Nun Appleton," appeared in the Spring 2013 issue of *The Ben Jonson Journal*. The article considers how un-

published manuscripts by Marvell's first patron, Sir Thomas Fairfax, shed light on the depiction of agricultural workers in the poem *Upon Appleton House*.

Jessica Winston has had a busy spring. In February, she gave the opening keynote at the Renaissance Men in the Middle Temple Conference at Birkbeck College, London. Then in March, she gave two more papers, one on "Jasper Heywood's 'Free Compositions' in *Troas* (1559)" at the Renaissance Society of America in San Diego, which is the basis for an article also published this spring in *Modern Philology*. She gave another paper, "The Translation of Learning' in Early Elizabethan London," at the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association Conference in Denver, where she also received the Delno C. West Award for best paper by a senior scholar for the paper she delivered at last year's convention. She's eagerly looking forward to her first trip to Yosemite as part of a family vacation this summer.

In February, **Brent Wolter**, delivered an invited lecture, "L2 [second language] collocational processing: a case of dual activation?" at Copenhagen University, Denmark, and Lund University, Sweden. At Copenhagen University he also participated in a research seminar on vocabulary testing for second language learners. At Lund, he attended an eye-tracking course that will assist him in his ongoing study of the ways that second-language learning is influenced by collocations in the learner's native language.



Undergraduate and Graduate Student News

The Undergraduate English Club, Writers and Readers in Training (WRIT), is looking for new officers for the 2013-2014 school year. If you are a current ISU undergraduate interested in serving as an officer and planning activities, please let current president **Staria Fenton** know at fentstar@isu.edu. This is a great way to meet and work with other students and faculty from the Department!

Jason Clark, MA student, and **Seth Clark**, PhD student, presented papers at the annual Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association (RMMRA) conference in Denver, CO, April 12-13.

Included in the March 2013 issue of *Journal of Contemporary Thought*: Essays by three English graduate students — **Dahood El-Oqla**, PhD Candidate; **Ryan Topper**, MA student; and **Kimberly Madsen**, PhD Candidate — and one English alum, **Naveed Rehan** (PhD 2012).

Dana Benge, PhD student, has had her paper titled “Teach Your Children Well: Emma and the Vampires Teaches a New Generation of Readers How to Behave” accepted to the 2013 Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association (RMMLA) conference, which will be held in Vancouver, Washington, October 10-12. In addition, she will be chairing a session on gothic in young adult literature at the 2014 RMMLA conference, to be held in Boise, Idaho.

Honors student **Alexa B. Goff**, majoring in Art and minoring in English, is the winner of the Alumni association’s 2012-2013 Outstanding Student Achievement Award in Arts and Humanities. Outstanding Student

Achievement Awards are presented to recognize graduating seniors who have excelled in their programs, their extracurricular activities, and have generally epitomized ISU’s outstanding student body.

Natalie Homer, undergraduate English major, recently had her poem, “Atlantic City,” accepted by the *Roanoke Review*. It will be forthcoming in their 2013 edition.

Alumni Dispatches

notes from the wild blue yonder

Alum **Rick Ardinger** (MA English, 1980) is the recipient of the Professional Achievement Award from the College of Arts and Letters, Fine Arts and Humanities Division, for 2013. Ardinger is the Executive Director of the Idaho Humanities Council.

Marjanna M. Hulet (MA English, 1992) has been appointed to the *Idaho State Journal* Editorial Board, which provides input for the newspaper on the topics the paper plans to write about in their editorials. Hulet comes to the board with extensive experience in education reform, city planning and zoning, technology and the humanities. She is currently employed by ISU as the Technology Training Coordinator for Information Technology Systems.

Eric D. Meyer (undergraduate, 1972-74) has published a book, *Questioning Martin Heidegger: On Western Metaphysics, Buddhist Ethics, and the Fate of the Sentient Earth*. The book provides a fresh look at an often-overlooked text by Heidegger, *Overcoming Metaphysics*. Reviewer Gregory Fried writes that “Those seeking a positive approach to the major Heideggerian themes—the questions of being, of ‘the subject,’ of nihilism, of technology, and of the overcoming of meta-

physics—will find much to consider and new avenues for thinking.”

Nick Lung-Bugenski (BA Philosophy, 2002), who at ISU was an active trip initiator in the Outdoor Program, is now the Chair of the Long Island City Community Boathouse <http://www.licboathouse.org/>, a non-profit connecting New Yorkers with the waterways of New York City. “There is tremendous development happening all along the water,” he writes, “[and] we are in the heart of a complete revitalization.” A daughter, Madison, was born to Nick and his wife Jennifer on January 13, 2013. She is their firstborn.



Madison Lung-Bugenski

Chantelle Summers (BA English, 2012) writes: I just graduated from ISU in May of this year. I started my own business two months later. I’ve had great success as a freelance writer. So far, I’ve had articles published in various sections of the *Post Register*. I’ve been published in *Idaho Falls Magazine* and its ancillary publications. I’ve been hired consistently by its parent company Harris Publishing to write articles and oversee editorial projects. In fact, I’m currently publication editor for a new publication in the Harris Publishing family called *Idaho Weddings*. . . . My next goal is to break into the national market. It may take some time, but I’m ready to go for it!

