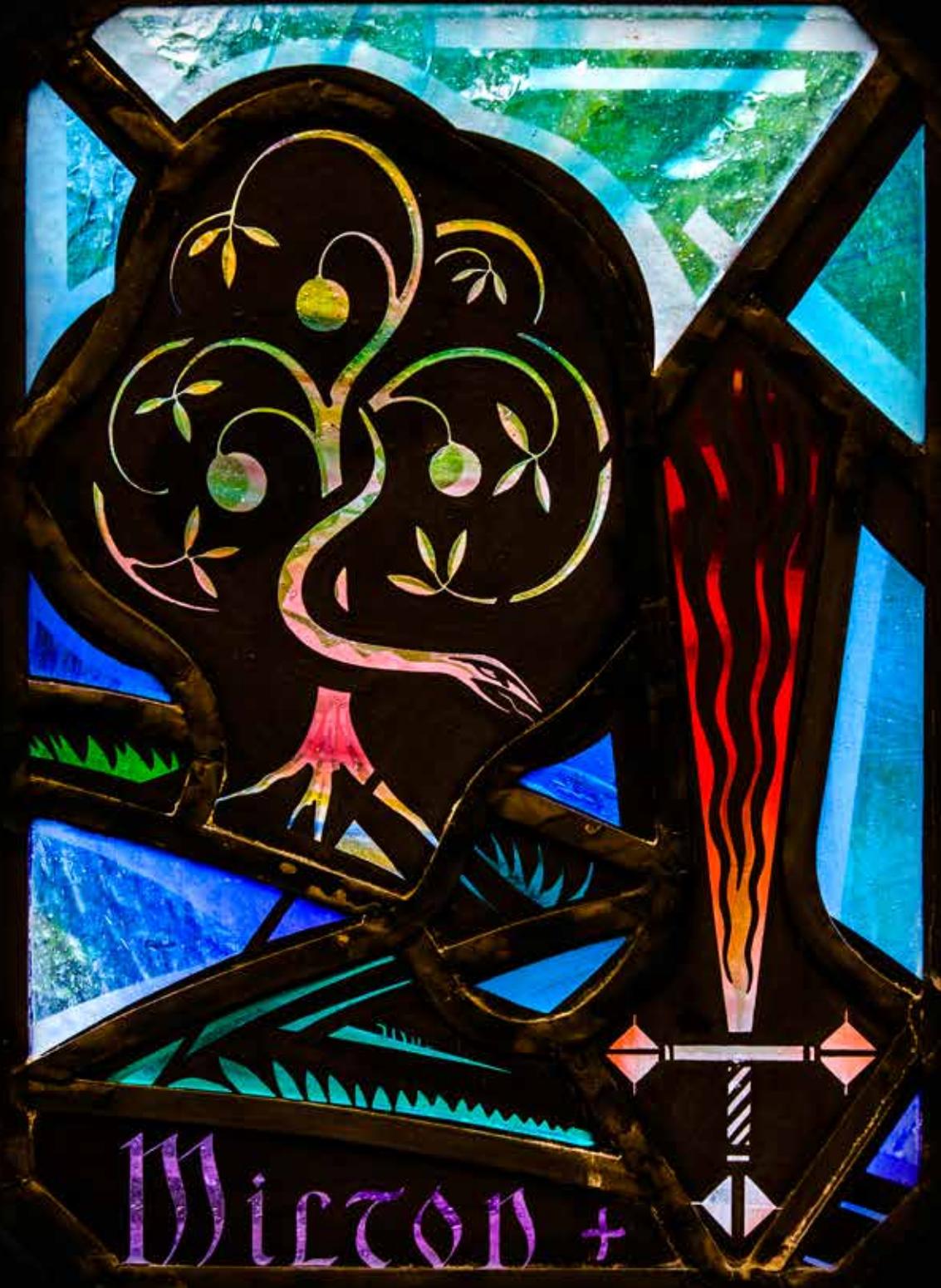


WRITING IN THE MARGINS



Digging in the Archives	2
Rediscovering Evelyn Waugh's 1949 lecture at St. Thomas	
World of Publishing	3
Three English majors reflect on their internship experience	
Take a Book, Return a Book	4
English alumna Margaret Aldrich (M.A. '03) examines the Little Free Library movement in her new book	
Under the Big Top	6
Students walk the tightrope (literally!) in Shannon Scott's (M.A. '10) Ringmasters: The Circus in Literature class	
For the Inquisitive Mind	8
New graduate program director, Alexis Easley, shares her vision for the M.A. in English program	
Master's Graduates	9
A sampling of graduate student master's essays and other scholarship	
Current Happenings	10
Recent department events and news from faculty, current students, and alumni	
Editors:	
Andy Leet	
Amy Muse	

Front Cover: In this image from John Milton's "Paradise Lost," the Tree of Knowledge and the snake recall the temptation of Adam and Eve, while the fiery sword symbolizes their expulsion from Eden. This stained glass medallion was designed and executed by artists from the Conrad Pickel Studio in Waukesha, Wisconsin, in 1958 for the then-named O'Shaughnessy Library.

Final print issue.

Writing in the Margins will go digital in the fall. Look for us on the UST English department website:
www.stthomas.edu/english

DIGGING IN THE ARCHIVES:

EVELYN WAUGH'S 1949 College of St. Thomas Lecture

Andy Leet '93, '02 M.A.

While recently wandering through the online archives of *The Aquin*, the College of St. Thomas student newspaper, I stumbled across an article written by Henry Lexau '49 and published in the Friday, March 11, 1949 issue titled "Authors Discussed by Evelyn Waugh." Since one of my favorite books, *Brideshead Revisited*, was written by Waugh, I was surprised to discover that this noted author had once given a lecture at St. Thomas. Lexau, an English major by the way, later served as the editor for the *Catholic Digest* magazine, which was owned by St. Thomas from 1964-2001. In any case, I thought that our readers might enjoy reading his *Aquin* article, which is reprinted below:



Wednesday evening, Evelyn Waugh, the famous English author of *Handful of Dust*, *Brideshead Revisited*, the *Loved Ones* [sic], and a number of other works delivered a lecture before an audience of 750 in the College auditorium. Himself a convert to Catholicism, he spoke on the life and works of three other writers and converts, Gilbert Keith Chesterton, Msgr. Ronald Knox, and Graham Greene.

After first apologizing for his insular intonation, "unintelligible to some and odious to all", he explained his topic, the three convert writers, as the one he was best suited to speak on and one which reflected a curious fact about contemporary Britain. Although Britain is only five per cent Catholic, the percentage of writers who are Catholic is about ninety-five.

Waugh thinks Gilbert Keith Chesterton is underrated by most critics. His life presents no problems for biographers, his style is too simple for scholars to find subjects for theses. In short, Chesterton's simplicity has led contemporary critics to neglect him. Chesterton was essentially a journalist, a quick-thinker and facile writer, with a luminous intuitive imagination which made him one of our age's greatest writers.

Msgr. Ronald Knox, Waugh says, comes from a different atmosphere than Chesterton. He is essentially a scholar, shy, scrupulous, but with a great master of English prose style.

In discussing Graham Greene, Mr. Waugh pointed out the theological implications of his three greatest books. *Brighton Rock* is a study of a man obviously damned; the *Labyrinthine Ways*, of a man destined for Heaven; and the *Heart of the Matter* presents the problem of a man whose ultimate fate cannot be determined by the reader.

The lecture was provocative, the audience receptive, and Mr. Waugh witty.

WORLD OF PUBLISHING

THREE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES

This spring semester, three of our senior English majors scored very competitive internships at two nationally-celebrated local publishing houses, Graywolf Press and Milkweed Editions. Below is a brief reflection from them about their experiences.



SHANNON HEITKAMP

Double Major in English & Economics

This semester, I've had the pleasure to work as a development intern at Graywolf Press. As a member of the development team, I assist the Press' fundraising efforts, including organizing events with the Board of Directors, sending invitations and mailings, and maintaining the donor database. I also had the opportunity to work the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) national conference in downtown Minneapolis; it was exciting to meet staff from other presses and numerous writers!

As a double major in economics and English, I am interested in nonprofits, so my time at Graywolf has given me insight to how a relatively small press operates. After I graduate this spring, I'll be working for Mathematica Policy Research. While Mathematica is a different industry than publishing, my time at Graywolf has been invaluable and I hope to utilize the skills I learned there and share my love of literature in a future career opportunity.



BLAKE RONDEAU

Double Major in English with a Writing Emphasis & Communication & Journalism

The Milkweed Editions internship program introduces students to all aspects of the publishing industry, including editorial, marketing, and development. After first starting in development and amassing names of promotional contacts for Milkweed's upcoming and new releases, I then moved to the editorial department, where I assisted with the final editing of a book that will be published later this year.

Because of my passionate interest in public relations and marketing, I was encouraged to develop and present an internal public relations/marketing campaign for the upcoming May release of Joni Tevis's *The World is on Fire: Scrap, Treasure, and Songs of Apocalypse*. Working this campaign alongside my daily intern tasks and a few other projects in other areas gave me a real sense of the fast pace that operates in the publishing industry.

I am completely indebted to Milkweed for the kindness of all the staff and the amount of expertise that they've shared with me. I never thought that it would have been possible for me to work as an intern in a business that publishes the literature I love to read—this internship was truly a dream come true!



LAURA VANDENOORN

Double Major in English with a Writing Emphasis & Classical Civilization & a Minor in Latin

As an intern at Milkweed Editions, I worked on a variety of book-related projects that continually cross the line between the editorial, marketing, and development sides of the publishing industry. Interns are responsible for seeking out projects that we are passionate about—oftentimes focusing on upcoming titles—and following them from department to department. I have worked on a wide range of projects integral to the process of publishing a book—everything from media releases, development databases, galley copy sends, fold and gather proofs, content fact checking, as well as the general clerical work that inevitably accompanies working in an office environment. Plus, the mentors at Milkweed were very willing to share their knowledge. While I am not sure if a career in publishing is in my future, I certainly have a better understanding of the amazing process that goes into transforming a manuscript into a book.

Take a Book, Return a Book

By Margret Aldrich
'03 M.A.





Margaret Aldrich

The first time I came across a Little Free Library in my southwest Minneapolis neighborhood, I didn't know what to make of it, but I knew I liked it—I mean, come on, books were inside.

Still, it was hard not to feel overly Midwestern about nabbing a paperback from a stranger's front yard. Were the books actually free for the taking? And could I really keep one forever? Even if I didn't have something to immediately contribute in return? It seemed too good to be true.

When I started learning more about the little boxes, I found the answer to all of those questions was a friendly, emphatic yes. In a Little Free Library, books are meant to be shared, traded, gifted, taken, enjoyed. It's impossible to steal one.

I first wrote about the fledgling Little Free Library phenomenon in 2011, as an editor at *Urne Reader*. Since then, Little Free Libraries—or “LFLs”—have become nothing short of a global movement, with twenty-six thousand of them in all fifty states and eighty countries.

When Coffee House Press, who has been a longtime friend to the Little Free Library organization, starting thinking about publishing a book on the subject, my name came up as a potential author, and I was thrilled to take on the project.

Researching *The Little Free Library Book* led me to talk to LFL owners, known as “stewards,” from all over the world—Ukraine, Colombia, India, South Korea, Uganda, the Netherlands, and more. All of them were thrilled to share their experiences. As a result, in the book there are profiles of dozens of stewards;

ideas, inspiration, and blueprints; and more than 450 photos of eclectic Little Free Libraries—from ones shaped like robots and Volkswagen buses to others inspired by movie theaters and log cabins.

In the year it took to research and write the book, it was a treat to hear about all the amazing ways people are using their Little Libraries to promote community, literacy, and creativity.

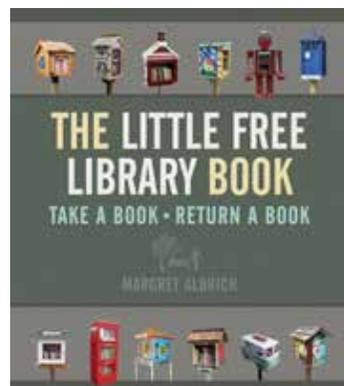
Case(s) in point: Two women from New Jersey rode a tandem bike from Colorado to Wisconsin, building Little Free Libraries, meeting townsfolk, and writing crowdsourced poetry along the way. A boy in Qatar built a Little Free Library with his dad to get to know his new neighbors. Communities in Africa are using Little Free Libraries when public libraries aren't an option. A family in North Carolina places sketchbooks in their LFL that patrons can take home to draw or paint in, then return to show off their work. And several stewards across the country use their Little Free Libraries as seed exchanges, where neighbors can trade kale, kohlrabi, and other seeds, in addition to books.

In an ambitious program, the Los Angeles Police Department is placing a Little Free Library in each of its precincts as a way to develop better relationships with the community. The miniature libraries give people a positive reason to come down to the police station, whether for a new book or an officer-hosted story hour for kids. Similar police-driven programs are happening in Detroit, Cleveland, New Orleans, and Ferguson, Missouri.

The Little Free Library my husband and I erected in front of our Minneapolis bungalow gets visitors of all ages, whether it's sunny or snowy, and many good conversations and good books have been shared there.

On my proverbial nightstand now, for example, are these unexpected gems pulled from our LFL: *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger, *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer, *Visions of Gerard* by Jack Kerouac, and *Gross National Happiness* by Arthur C. Brooks—none of which I've read before. And I've been happy to give new life to some of the books that had sat neglected on my shelf for too long.

Whenever I add a book to our Little Free Library or someone else's, I wonder who is going to find it and where it will end up. Now, I can't wait to add *The Little Free Library Book* into the mix.



UNDER THE BIG TOP

By Shannon Scott '10 M.A.

During fall semester 2014, my Ringmasters & Bearded Ladies: Literature of the Circus students participated in a workshop at Circus Juventas, a performing arts youth circus school in St. Paul. We had spent the semester studying the American circus: General Tom Thumb and Lady Olga, ten-in-one shows, P.T. Barnum's "humbugs," Topsy and Jumbo the elephants, the tiger-taming skills of Mabel Stark, and the daredevil deeds of The Flying Wallendas. The Circus Juventas workshop was intended to provide an opportunity for some hands-on learning. As student Marty Frascone noted, "At Circus Juventas, we put theory into practice. ... The kinds of things we did can be related to stories from the section on death-defying feats, such as 'First Sorrow' by Franz Kafka. The trapeze artist devotes his whole life to his art, and now I can imagine the time required for people to actually get good at it."

In addition to connecting course literature to experiential learning, the workshop proved to be a potent bonding experience. "I feel like there's no better way to get to know somebody quickly than at a circus training course," Connor O'Neill claimed. I echo that sentiment. At Circus Juventas, we were all students. The coaches broke us into small groups and instructed us through seven activities: Hoops, Low Wire, Trapeze, Spanish Web, Silks, Trampoline, and the Side-by-Side Trapeze. It was both humbling and exciting to succeed and fail—the key being everyone supported each others' efforts. Jardiya Srey

recalled, "It took a few minutes of calming myself down, and a lot of encouragement from my group members, before I finally bent my knees, tightly held the trapeze bar, and took my feet off the ladder. When I let go, I realized it wasn't that bad and kept swinging like everyone else. I'm definitely glad I did it, and it was nice to have the support of my group members." Normally, teamwork is not an essential component to a literature course,

but we soon learned that when it comes to aerial work, it's crucial. We cheered each other on as we climbed the silks or stood up in our giant hoops; we groaned communally as we stretched our bodies, legs over head, in a brutal warm-up exercise; we refrained from laughing too hard when we hopped serpentine down the long trampoline, drunken bunnies out of control.



Courtesy of Circus Juventas

"READING BOOKS ABOUT THE CIRCUS CAN ONLY PORTRAY SO MUCH, BUT ACTUALLY GOING THERE AND EXPERIENCING IT HELPED ME UNDERSTAND MORE."

—Shelby Doherty

Many students commented on the kindness and intelligence of the coaching staff at Circus Juventas, professionals who came from all over the world. The coaches shared their own talents and experiences, educating us as we hung upside down, spun in dizzying circles in the air, and fell repeatedly off the low wire. Coach Sun Yan Hong reflected on her background as a young girl performing gymnastics in China; Coach Mostapha Haussouni showed us how to properly grip a trapeze bar and held us securely, despite a shoulder injury; Coach Patryk Sawicki (a favorite among the young women) demonstrated his talents on the trampoline that led him to multiple gold medals.

"IT WAS COOL TO HEAR THAT LOTS OF THE COACHES HAD READ THE SAME READINGS THAT WE HAD. ... THEY WERE SUPER EXCITED TO HEAR WE READ *THE NIGHT CIRCUS* AND SAID IT WAS ONE OF THEIR FAVORITES."

—Tanner Ruprecht

Although the workshop was fun, it also was grueling, and most of us were quite sore by the following class. We all wore what came to be known as the "jacket of pain" that occurs after extensive and unusual physical exertion. We had gained a deep respect for performers; we had bonded over our triumphs and failures; and we had added another dimension to our literary studies. In the words of Kate Steuer: "I loved having the whole class together, running away with the circus for just one day."

Toward the end of the semester, we explored the idea of what the circus would be like in the future. Most students felt it was decidedly not an elephant balancing on a ball, but instead the performances of Cirque du Soleil, where many of the coaches from Circus Juventas performed. As Elida Nokland remarked,

"Throughout this course, we have studied history, especially how the circus was in the 19th and 20th centuries, but not what it is today. And that's exactly what I got an idea of when we had the pleasure of visiting Circus Juventas." We realized the circus will not die; rather, it simply will transform, with the spirit of whimsy tinged with bloodlust remaining.

In closing, I never imagined I would hang upside down in front of my students, or flap my arms wildly in a vain attempt to cross a tightrope without falling. Yet I did ... and loved it. The workshop at Circus Juventas added a true "intertextual" aspect to the course. As we discussed afterward in our decompression/reflection of the enlightening circus experience, we will never watch Nik Wallenda cross anything—be it a Chicago skyscraper or the Grand Canyon—in the same way again. The physical discipline, the relentless training, and the ever-present danger will be that much more real if we should read other examples of circus literature in the future.

Thanks to Kim Thompson for organizing the event, and to Dan Butler, CEO and Founder of Circus Juventas, for giving us this "once-in-a lifetime" opportunity.

"IT REALLY GAVE ME A GREAT UNDERSTANDING OF ALL THE SKILL THAT GOES INTO THE CIRCUS... THEY ARE RISKING THEIR LIVES FOR A PERFORMANCE."

—Scott Matecki



Courtesy of Circus Juventas



For the Inquisitive Mind

A Message to Alumni of the UST English M.A. Program

Alexis Easley, Director

Now in its twenty-first year, the M.A. Program in English at the University of St. Thomas has made a significant impact on local and regional communities. Our alumni have gone on to become influential teachers, editors, writers, lawyers, and leaders. I think of David Fettig '12, Vice President and Director of Public Affairs at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis; Desiree Libengood '09, Assistant Professor of English at North Central University; Andrew De Young '08, Director of Operations at Sparkhouse Press; and Frances Simon Standing '09, Senior Staff Attorney at the State of Minnesota. As I remember these remarkable former students, I recall so many other graduates as well, whose brilliant work in the program and subsequent professional success continue to inspire our work at UST.

As we look back, we must also look forward. How will the program change during its next twenty years? How might it respond to the needs of the next generation of graduate students? In order to address these questions, we recently began a process of strategic planning involving students, alumni, and faculty. This effort will help us assess our strengths and determine new directions for growth.

This is where you come in. We are eager to hear your feedback and your stories. What aspects of the M.A. program were most meaningful to you? In what ways did the program prepare you for your subsequent professional life? Please also update us on your achievements and successes, both personal and professional. We invite you to contribute to our Facebook page (UST English Graduate Program) and to follow us on Twitter (@USTGradEnglish). We are grateful for your letters and emails as well.

“Education is all a matter of building bridges.”

—Ralph Ellison, *Collected Essays*

Last month I was delighted to receive a note from Ann Deiman-Thornton, a 2002 graduate of our program who currently serves as Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts at Inver Hills Community College. She mentioned that she had promoted the program “many times” due to her “fantastic and very positive” experience at UST. She also noted that she had “worked with (and hired)

many others who had graduated from the program.” I was grateful for Ann’s email because it demonstrated just the sort of alumni feedback and networking we are so eager to promote.

As we look toward building the M.A. program, we know that you, our graduates, are our greatest asset. In addition to sharing your memories, advice, and successes, I invite you to contribute in other ways as well. This year, for example, the English Department was proud to host campus lectures by alumni Dr. Shandi Wagner '11 and Fernando Sanchez '10. Please let me know if you would be willing to give a talk on campus, network with current students, offer an internship, or endorse the program in other ways.

I may be reached at:
maeasley@stthomas.edu
(651) 962-5653
English Department, 333 JRC
University of St. Thomas
2115 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105

I look forward to hearing from you!

MASTER'S GRADUATES



Eleven students graduated from the master's program this academic year: two in summer, three in fall, and six in spring. Their names and essay titles are:

SUMMER

Kelly Henseler "Robin Hood: Examining Morality"

Elyse Kallgren "Reconfiguring Domesticity: Elizabeth Gaskell's *Cranford* and Charles Dickens's *Household Words*"

FALL

Marziyeh Kameli "Mastering English: A Ticket to Salvation?"

Peter Larson "Count Fosco, Citizen of the World"

Bryce Peterson "The Mad Kaleidoscope: H.G. Wells's Nightmare Origin Story, a Vision of Prophetic Anxiety"

SPRING

John Douglass "Home Sweet Apocalypse: Urban Zombies, Race, and the Posthuman in Colson Whitehead's *Zone One*"

Erin Heisler "Defining a Framework of Justice for *The Vagina Monologues*' Fight to End Violence Against Women and Girls"

Betsy Howard "The Death of the Sun: Gender Roles and Aesthetic Formation in Virginia Woolf's *Eclipses*"

Suzanna Cleary "The Editing In and Of *Garden of Eden*"

Jack Nielsen "The A-T-Liens ain't changed": Afrofuturist Bi-Directionality in OutKast's *ATLiens*"

Eric Tasch "Relativities in *Finnegans Wake*"

Nathan Wunrow "Solomon Northup's *Twelve Years a Slave: A Phantasmagoric Journey of a Wage Laborer*"

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP



This past academic year, graduate students have presented papers at academic conferences throughout the United States and had essays published in journals. Below is a sampling of the papers that were presented or published.

PRESENTED

Scott Radunzel "*Pandarus and Criseyde: Innocent Relationship or Incestuous Desire?*," the TEMA/Medieval Symposium (University of North Texas, October 2014)

Betsy Howard "Satellites and Socialites: Literary Circles, Planetary Imagery, and the Feminist Vantage," the Louisville Conference on Literature & Culture (Louisville, Kentucky, February 2015)

Jeremiah Davis "Knights of Eden: Free Will, Despair and Resignation in *East of Eden*," the Midwestern Conference on Literature, Language, and Media (Northern Illinois University, March 2015)

Mark Van Dusseldorp "'The Uncomfortable Night of Nothing': Sir Thomas Browne and Oblivion," the Consequences of "the Fall": Growth & Decline in Medieval & Early Modern Literary Culture Conference (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, April 2015)

PUBLISHED

Kristine Putz's essay, "*The Kite Runner* From a Marxist Perspective," was published in April in *Minnesota English Journal Online* (www.minnesotaenglishjournalonline.org).

Taya Sazama's essay, "Theory in Practice in the High School Classroom: Using *The Kite Runner* to Teach Literary Theory," was published in April in *Minnesota English Journal Online* (www.minnesotaenglishjournalonline.org).



A number of our M.A. students also presented at our annual graduate student conference, held in April. To see a complete listing of students and their paper titles, see the conference program at:

www.stthomas.edu/english/events/archive/201520gradenglishconference.html

DEPARTMENT NEWS

The English Department is pleased to report that it has hired three new tenure-track faculty members, all of whom will start with us this upcoming fall. **CHRIS SANTIAGO** (U of Southern California) and **SALVATORE PANE** (U of Pittsburgh) were hired for our creative writing with an emphasis in new media/digital arts positions and **LAURA ZEBUHR** (U of Minnesota) was hired for our American literature before 1900 position. We look forward to more formally introducing these new faculty in the future.

St. Thomas was the host school for the annual Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities (ACTC) English Majors Conference, held in early March. Students presented academic papers in areas of British, American, World/Multicultural literature, and media/theory, and a fifth session focused on student creative writing. Representing UST were **LESLEY ROE**, **BRYSON ROSSING**, **LIZZY DOURGARIAN**, **MOLLIE LAIDLAY**, and **MARY CONWAY**. A list of their paper titles can be found on our English Department "Past Events" website at www.stthomas.edu/english/events/archive.



On March 13, English alumnus **FERNANDO SANCHEZ** '10 M.A., a Ph.D. candidate in Rhetoric and Composition at Purdue University, presented "The Rhetoric of Urban Design." Examining the language of design that two students enrolled in a Master's of Urban Design program learned as they became indoctrinated into their profession, Sanchez's lecture examined how the fields of professional writing



and urban design have each traditionally talked about the values of "good" design.

Early April was full of activity related to the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) national conference, which was held in downtown Minneapolis. The English Department organized two events at UST's Minneapolis campus, including a "Tribute to Lon Otto, Professor Emeritus of English," which featured readings from several alumni, including **MICK COCHRANE** '79, **MARK EHLING** '98, and **DAVID ONOFRY-CHUK** '05. In addition, **LON OTTO** read a selection from his new short story collection, *A Man in Trouble*, which is scheduled to be published in the near future by Brighthorse Books. **LESLIE MILLER** served as the host for this event. The second event offered was titled "Totally WIPped: Children's and Young Adult Authors Read from Works in Progress." It featured authors William Alexander, Marina Budhos, Pete Hautman, Jewell Parker Rhodes, Laura Ruby, Anne Ursu, and was organized by Swati Avasthi and **HEATHER BOUWMAN**. In addition to the two events above during AWP, alumnus **DAVID GARDINER** '89 read from his latest poetry collection, *The Chivalry of Crime*, published by Salmon Poetry, Ireland.

On Earth Day, April 22, the department co-sponsored a presentation by Scott Miller, who detailed his 2005 water journey from St. Cloud to the Hudson Bay. Miller's trip followed the path laid in 1930 by Eric Severeid, author of *Canoeing with the Cree*, which **LIZ WILKINSON's** ENGL 203 Sports Literature students read for class.

FACULTY & STAFF

CATHERINE CRAFT-FAIRCHILD presented a paper, "Masquerade and Female Identity: Tracing Relationship in the Writing of Elizabeth Inchbald, Maria Edgeworth, and Catharine Maria Sedgwick," at the 40th annual convention of the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies held in Alabama in February.

NATHAN HILL's debut novel *The Nix* was accepted for publication by Alfred A. Knopf. The novel will be published in Fall 2016, with international publication following. The novel centers on



a son and the mother who left him twenty years before, as he uncovers her story and relearns his own, taking the reader through World War II Norway, the Chicago Riots of 1968, a 1980s suburban teenage love triangle, the Gulf War, Occupy Wall Street, and multi-player online gaming worlds.

EMILY JAMES' essay "Modernist Aphasia" was published in *The Space Between: Literature and Culture, 1914-1945*. She also presented "Modernism's Haunted Inkbotles" at the American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting in March and "Female Cryptography from Austen to Woolf" at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Conference in April.

LAURIE LINDEEN had an essay published in the April issue of *Mpls. St. Paul* magazine in the "1st Ave. Turns 45" section. She also hosted both a reading at AWP for University of Minnesota M.F.A. alumni and another off-site event sponsored by *Rain Taxi*, "A Tribute to Grant Hart/Hüsker Dü," at Patrick's Cabaret.

AMY MUSE's essay "Teaching *The Portrait of a Lady* as a Tale of Two Travelers" was published in *Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad*. She also gave two presentations: "Companions on the Road Less Traveled" at the Forum on Education Abroad in New Orleans, and "Sympathetic Curiosities: *Rabbit Hole's* Demonstration of the Power of Intimate Theatre" at the Comparative Drama Conference in Baltimore.

LUCIA PAWLOWSKI's article "What's Wrong with Folklore in Literary Criticism?" was

Share Your Alumni News



E-mail:
english@stthomas.edu or
gradenglish@stthomas.edu



Facebook:
"University of St. Thomas
English Department"



The Quad
(UST Alumni Directory):
alumni.stthomas.edu

published in the Spring 2015 issue of *The Griot: The Journal of African-American Studies*.

DOUG PHILLIPS's article "Fragments Shored: Some Remarks on T.S. Eliot's Drama and the Uses of Hugh Grant's Vacancy" is published in the 2014 volume of *Text & Presentation*, along with his book review: "Perceptions of Memory and Mechanisms of Power: Beckett, Williams, Pinter." His review of Jenny Davidson's *Reading Style: A Life in Sentences* appears in *The Key Reporter*.



After six years, our graduate program coordinator **JOYCE POLEY** is moving on. Joyce earned her M.A. in Psychotherapy from the Adler Graduate School in 2011, and after working part-time at a clinic

in St. Louis Park for a few years, she has accepted a full-time position at Counseling and Psychiatric Services in Coon Rapids. We will certainly miss seeing her friendly face in the department and wish her well on her new career path!

JAMES ROGERS' article, "Seán Dunne's *The Road to Silence: An Anomalous Spiritual Autobiography?*," appeared in a recent issue

of *Études Irlandaises*, a publication of the University of Rennes. He also presented "Researching Diasporic Memoir: The Ethnic Fade that Didn't Happen" at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick, Ireland in February. In addition, his book *Northern Spaces: Places Near the Dead* was listed as a finalist for the Minnesota Book Awards.

ANDREW SCHEIBER presented "'A Union So Far From Brilliant': The Failed Rhetoric of Civic Identity in 'Rodman the Keeper,'" at the February meeting of the Constance Fenimore Woolson Society in Washington, D.C. His paper "Blues and the Pedagogical Subject" was presented at the 71st annual meeting of the Philosophy of Education Society in Memphis, Tennessee, in March. In addition, he presented "Who's Your (Good) Daddy? The Bluesman as Healing Father Figure in *Black Snake Moan*," Delta Symposium, Jonesboro, Arkansas, April 9-11, 2015. Finally, his article "'I Don't Worry 'Bout a Thing ('Cause I Know Nothing Is Gonna Be All Right)': Locating Mose Allison within the Blues Tradition" was published in the Spring 2015 issue of *Arkansas Review*.

MARTIN WARREN reviewed Julieann Veronica Ulin's *Medieval Invasions in Modern Irish Literature* in the Spring 2015 issue of *New Hibernia Review*.

LIZ WILKINSON presented "American Music's Native Roots: Creek and Seminole Songs on the Arkansas Trail of Tears" at the Delta Symposium in Jonesboro, Arkansas, in April. The paper is about Native American influence on spirituals and blues music, especially as it manifests in Sterlin Harjo's documentary *This May Be the Last Time*.

ALUMNI

MARK EHLING'S '98 graphic novel, *River Dead of Minneapolis Scavenged by Teenagers*, was recently published by New Carriage. It can be purchased through <http://newcarriage.tumblr.com/store>.

LEIA (DOLPHY) POLKINGHORNE '00 just completed an M. A. in Education from the University of Northwestern - St. Paul in December. She specialized in online teaching and learning with a master's thesis titled "Techniques and Tools: Effectiveness of Research-based Pedagogical Techniques through Online Learning Tools with Secondary Students." She hopes to expand her work with students to higher education and is currently seeking employment as an adjunct professor or advisor.

SHANDI WAGNER '09, '11 M.A. was awarded a doctorate in English from Wayne State University.

CURRENT STUDENTS

UNDERGRADUATE

We are pleased to announce that **MEGHAN HEITKAMP** is the recipient of the Paul Hague Endowed Scholarship for Excellence in English for 2015-2016. This scholarship is funded by the James A. Kurpius '60 family in honor of professor Paul Hague, who taught in the St. Thomas English Department from 1955-1990. The other English Department scholarship recipient for 2015-2016 is **JOE MOLOHON**, who was awarded the Joseph B. Connors Scholarship. Connors was a longtime member of the English Department and wrote *Journey Towards Fulfillment*, a history of the College of St. Thomas. The English Department thanks our generous donors for these two scholarships.

BROOKE DAVIES was accepted to teach English as a Second Language in Madrid, Spain, for nine months starting in September through CIEE. This summer, she will be getting her TEFL certification and

working on a young adult fiction novel. Three majors presented papers at the English Language & Literature Undergraduate Conference, hosted by the University of St. Francis (Joliet, Illinois). **NICK DEBELLIS** presented "Literary Didacticism in Britain's Early Modern Period," **RACHEL SAWDY** presented "Adam, Eve, and the Fall Portrayed in Milton and Lanier," and **MEGAN STUMPF** presented "A Close Reading from *The Wife of Bath's Prologue*." In addition, DeBellis was awarded a Young Scholar's Research Grant to continue research on his paper's topic with Dr. Martin Warren this summer.

MELANIE KRAEMER was awarded a Young Scholars Research Grant to research early ecofeminist theory in New Woman novels of the Victorian Era in Britain with Dr. Alexis Easley this summer.

JAMES MITE has been awarded a fellowship to participate in the Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (MURAP) at the University

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As a member of the Summer 2015 Cohort he will be conducting an independent research project under the guidance of a UNC faculty member and presenting the research at the annual MURAP Conference. The program is a ten-week long summer research institute and graduate school preparatory program.

ANNEMARIE THOMPSON will be attending the English Ph.D. program at the University of Virginia this fall.

GRADUATE

JOHN DOUGLASS'S personal essay about the 1955 film *The Court Jester*, "A Teacher To Take Me, Mold Me and Make Me," was published in the February 2015 issue of *Bright Wall/Dark Room*, a subscription online film magazine.

CLAIRE (BUETHE) PRESCOTT and her husband, Joe, welcomed Caroline Therese into the world on April 7.

SUZANNA (LEE-MOONEY) CLEARY and her husband, Leland, welcomed Lena Margaret Lee Cleary on April 7.



UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS

Department of English
 Mail JRC 333
 2115 Summit Ave.
 St. Paul, MN 55105-1096

Nomad Heart

for Kevin Page

Sometimes looking to the cold wintry stars
 you can feel the planet move as it whirls
 in the flux of the galaxy, the whole
 path of the milky way buzzing like a hive.

They say it's better to journey than arrive –
 halting being the usual rigmarole
 of move-along-shift. Sometimes the soul
 just craves a place to rest, safe from earthly wars.

The city lights come on in twos and threes
 and leaves are freezing hard in mucky pools,
 cars are stuck in jams or droning home.

If we're not brought to our knees, we'll fall to our knees
 in thanks, in praise, in trust, in hope – the rule
 of law mapped clear on heaven's ample dome.

A Remembrance of my Grandfather, Wattie, Who Taught Me to Read and Write

for Seamus Heaney

Heading towards the Natural History Museum
 across the snowy paths of Merrion Square
 the city hushed, the park deserted, in a daydream
 I look up: A heaving net of branches, leaf-bare
 against the pearly sky. There, like a trireme
 on an opalescent ocean, or some creature of the upper air
 come down to nest, a cargo with a forest mème,
 only begotten of gall, of pulp, of page, of leaflight, of feather.
 What snagged that book in the high reaches of the oak?
 A child let out of school, casting heavenward the dreary yoke?
 An eco-installation from an artist of the avant-garde?
 Or the book's own deep need to be with kindred –
 a rootling cradled again in grandfather's arms,
 freed of her history, her spells, her runes, her fading charms?

From Paula Meehan's book *Painting Rain* (2009) and used with
 permission from Wake Forest University Press. Meehan, who is
 the current holder of the Ireland Chair of Poetry funded by the arts
 councils of both Ireland and Northern Ireland, was named the 19th
 recipient of the \$5,000 O'Shaughnessy Award for Poetry in late
 April by the UST Center for Irish Studies. Born in Dublin in 1955,
 Meehan has published five collections of poetry and written several
 plays for the stage.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 UNIVERSITY OF
 ST. THOMAS

Published twice a year by the
 Department of English.