

## FROM YOUR GRAD DIRECTOR.....

We're halfway through the academic year, and a hearty congratulations to all of you for getting to this point. Of course, we're starting over again with a new semester, which is simultaneously exciting and daunting for all of us. One thing you've probably figured out by now, though, is that you're not here for the money. Graduate degrees in creative writing, linguistics, literature, rhetoric and composition, and TESOL aren't going to make any of us rich. But that's not to say that there isn't some money to be had, so I want to talk this month about ways to find a little money to defray travel expenses, to support research, and even to fund time and space to write that dissertation.

Let's start close to home. The Department of English offers several scholarships to grad students, and the deadlines are coming up soon. The Frances Mayhew Rippey Scholarship offers money toward tuition, books, research materials, and conference and research travel to graduate students in literature. The Janet Ross Scholarship is a merit award targeted toward students (at the grad and undergrad levels) majoring in TESOL. The Voss Scholarship is open to graduate students in literature and is meant to support applied or theoretical research in literature. The application deadline for all these scholarships—which have paid awards from \$300 (Rippey) to \$500 (Rippey and Voss) to \$1500 (Ross)—is **Friday, February 27, 2009**. Application forms are available on the department website: <http://bsu.edu/shapps/english/graduate/gradawards.htm>.

Our own GSAB also offers travel grants of \$100, and you can apply for one each year. Application forms and guidelines are posted on GSAB's website: <http://gsab.iweb.bsu.edu/New/Forms.htm>. These grants are funded by their hard work at book sales and the like, so buy early and often when the next book sale rolls around!

Ball State has an internal grant program called "ASPiRE" targeted to graduate students. There are competitions for both creative arts (<http://www.bsu.edu/research/media/pdf/student-creativearts-guide.pdf>) and research (<http://www.bsu.edu/research/media/pdf/student-research-guide.pdf>) grants, meant to support research materials and travel. These grants may be funded at a maximum of \$500. They also offer travel grants to grad students (<http://www.bsu.edu/research/media/pdf/student-travel-guide.pdf>) of up to \$100.

Keep in mind, too, that many national conferences offer travel support to graduate students. This year, the MLA offered advanced graduate students \$300 grants to attend the conference in San Francisco. The 4 Cs and National Women's Studies Association offer travel grant opportunities, and there are similar opportunities for other major conferences as well. It's up to you to be organized enough to apply. Application deadlines are often months ahead of the conference and grants are often awarded on a first-come, first-served basis; you may also need a letter of support from your advisor, your grad director, or your department chair, so read the guidelines carefully.

In short, though money's tight everywhere, there are lots of places you can look to find a little bit of cash to support the work you're doing here at Ball State. The OARSP offers grantsmanship workshops (<http://www.bsu.edu/research/secure/oarspfundres/>) throughout the year, which are designed to help you identify and apply for state, national, and international programs. They'll walk you through the process of finding appropriate opportunities. Winning an external grant of any size would be quite a feather in your cap. Don't be shy, and don't assume that you'll never win the award. Phil Rudd had a Fulbright Dissertation Fellowship to study in Africa in 2006—a major accomplishment, but one that is available to you, too. You just have to go after it.

When you see Professor Habich around the Bell Building, be sure to thank him for his excellent leadership as our department chair this fall. And please welcome Professor Pat Collier into the position of acting chair and Professor Jill Christman as our assistant chair. They will continue as our intrepid leaders through the end of June, at which point Dr. Liz Riddle will assume the mantle of departmental chairperson. We are grateful to all of them for their service.

One final note: the department will be bringing in candidates for *four* tenure-track positions (one in creative writing, two in literature, one in rhet/comp). Each candidate will meet with grad students, give a research talk or reading, and teach a class—don't miss the opportunity to meet these candidates. The committees value students' feedback, and you should value the opportunity to help shape our department's future. Plus, you'll get a chance to learn what to do on campus visits, and you'll hear and see all sorts of interesting, creative, and exciting things! You can't go to everything, but you can always go to something.

—Professor Deborah Mix

## CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!.....

**Jim Chambers** (PhD program, Literature) will present “‘But a sad-eye queen is no hero, and Geoff was no threat’: A Reexamination of *A Taste of Honey* and its Effects on the Sexual Offences Act of 1967” at the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900 in February, “Rewriting the Motherland: Transgender Challenges to Colonialism and Nationalism in Michele Cliff’s *No Telephone to Heaven*” at the British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference, also in February, and “Transitioning from Transvestite Relationship to Transgender Friendship” Expanding and Re-Reading Lives of the Cross-Dressed Saints Using the Lens of Transgender and Friendship” at the 44<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies in May.

**Jim Chambers and Emily Standridge** (PhD program, Literature and Rhetoric and Composition, respectively) will co-present “Making Sound Waves in Composition Pedagogy: Incorporating Musical Voice Pedagogy into First-Year Writing Courses” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (4Cs) in March.

**Tess Evans** (PhD program, Rhetoric and Composition) presented “YouTube Carnival Images: In Defense of the Festive Truth and of the Right to Laughter” at the Midwest PCA/ACA Conference and “Women and Good Works: The Myth of Self-Sacrifice for the Good(s) of Mankind” at the ICEA Conference, both in October 2008.

**Glenda Alicia Leung** (MA, Linguistics/TESOL, 2006) will publish “The negotiation of Trinidadian identity in the musical genre of raggamuffin” in the *Journal of Sociolinguistics*. The article is based on her MA project, which was completed under the direction of Dr. Trechsel.

**Claire Lutkewitte** (PhD program, Rhetoric and Composition) presented “Creating in the First-Year Writing Classroom Using Web 2.0 Technologies” at the Midwest PCA/ACA Conference in October 2008.

**Casey McArdle** (PhD program, Rhetoric and Composition) will present “The Digital Emergence of the Public/Private Authority” at the 2009 Computers and Writing Conference in June 2009. This will be the second year in a row that Casey’s presented at this conference.

**Warren S. Moore** (PhD, Literature, 2002) has been promoted to Associate Professor at Newberry College and recently received the South Carolina Governor’s Distinguished Professor Award for 2008-09.

**Rama Munajat** (PhD, Applied Linguistics, 2007) has just published *Foregrounding Marking Shift in Sundanese Written Narrative Segments*, a monograph based on his dissertation research; Dr. Seig was his chair.

**Elizabeth Murray** (PhD program, Literature) presented “‘I am not a reformer . . . I am only a feeler’: Reform and Gender in *The Silent Partner*” at the ICEA Conference in October 2008.

**Nathan Myers** (PhD program, Literature) will be presenting “Uncouth Tongues: Kipling’s Indian Narrators and Translational Mimesis” at the British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference in Savannah, GA, in February.

**Karen Neubauer** (PhD program, Rhetoric and Composition) presented “‘I’m just standing here selling everything’: The Confounding Messages of Music Consumerism in a Reunion Rock Concert” at the ICEA Conference in October 2008.

**Chaehee Park** (PhD program, Applied Linguistics) presented “Subject-verb agreement: A corpus study of the collective nouns *majority* and *minority*” at the INTESOL conference in November.

**Luz Mary Rincón** (PhD, Applied Linguistics, 2003) has just published *El Español de Bucaramanga*, a book based on her award-winning dissertation directed by Dr. MacKay.

**Sarah Robbins-Bell** (PhD program, Rhetoric and Composition) is now the Director of Emerging Technologies at Kelley Executive Partners in the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. She has several articles forthcoming: “A Test of the Law of Demand in a Virtual World” (co-authored with Castronova, et al.) will appear in the *International Journal of Gaming and Computer-Mediated Simulations*; “Synthetic Worlds as Experimental Instruments” (co-authored with Castronova, et al.) will appear in *The Video Game Theory Reader II*; and “Defining Virtual Worlds” will be published in the *Rocky Mountain Communication Review*. “*Para una definição expandida de ‘Mundos Virtuais’*” was published in *E-Papers Editoria* in June 2008, and “Higher Education as Virtual Conversation” appeared in the September/October 2008 issue of *EDUCAUSE Review*. Sarah was also quoted in a BBC article on pedagogy in virtual environments. Check it out at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7747951.stm>.

**Emily Standridge** (PhD program, Rhetoric and Composition) will present “America the Beautiful? The Politics of Fatness, Beauty, and the Career of America Ferrera” at the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900 in February.

**This month, maybe congratulations and a little bit of awe are in order?**

## **FACULTY PROFILE: DR. FRANK FELSENSTEIN.....**

Frank Felsenstein is a Londoner. He studied at the University of Leeds in England. His doctoral work was on the eighteenth-century Scottish novelist and travel writer, Tobias Smollett, and his first published work was a critical edition of that author's *Travels through France and Italy*, published by Oxford University Press. In preparing this, he made his own journey through France and Italy following in Smollett's footsteps in archives and on the open road. Later, Oxford asked him to re-edit the work for a larger audience in the World's Classics series.

His next piece of extended research (approximately ten years in the making) was his book on representations of the Jews in the popular culture of the "long" eighteenth century. This came out as *Anti-Semitic Stereotypes: A Paradigm of Otherness in Eighteenth-Century Popular Culture, 1660-1830* (Johns Hopkins University Press). Had texts of the works that he read in libraries across the U.K. and U.S. been available on-line (as most of them now are), Dr. Felsenstein reckons that he might have been able to research and write the book in half the time! In conjunction with the work, he co-curated and published book-length catalogues for two separate exhibitions of English satirical and graphic images of the Jews. One exhibition was in New York, the other in Leeds.

Working again in the eighteenth century, Dr. Felsenstein prepared the anthology *English Trader, Indian Maid: Representations of Gender, Race, and Slavery in the New World*, also published by Johns Hopkins U.P., which traces the development of the tale of Inkle and Yarico, first made famous by Richard Steele in *The Spectator* (1711). The tale has striking affinities with the better-known story of Pocahontas. After the book was completed, he came across in the Beinecke Library at Yale a wonderful unpublished manuscript play, *Incle and Yarico*, by the English radical writer John Thelwall, a close friend of Wordsworth and Coleridge; Dr. Felsenstein co-edited an edition of the play, which was published separately by Associated University Presses. Dr. Felsenstein has also published books or articles on eighteenth-century gardening and on the laboring class poet Ann Yearsley, a milk woman popularly known as "Lactilla."

He is particularly involved in two research projects at the present time. One is the preparation of an on-line database of reading habits in Muncie, IN, in the late nineteenth century. The project, entitled *What Middletown Read*, is described at <http://www.bsu.edu/alumni/march2006/facultyspot/>. He and Dr. James Connolly, Director of BSU's Center for Middletown Studies, are also co-authoring a book that will be based on their findings. Dr. Felsenstein's other research project is the completion of an edition of letters written between his parents in the late 1930s when they were refugees from Nazi Germany. The provisional title of the work is "*No Life Without You*": *A Refugee Love Story*. It is the most intimate and personal piece of research that he has ever undertaken.

As well as Leeds, Dr. Felsenstein has taught at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, Vanderbilt University, Drew University, and Yeshiva College. He came to Ball State University in 2002 as the Reed D. Voran Honors Distinguished Professor of Humanities, and he divides his teaching between Ball State's English Department and its Honors College. Among graduate classes that he has taught are: From Gutenberg to Ben Franklin: The Impact of the Hand Press; Shakespeare; Milton; Constructions of Otherness: English Literature, Ethnic and National Identity; and John Locke and Eighteenth-Century Literature.

## **STUDENT PROFILE: CONSTANTIN SCHREIBER.....**

Constantin Schreiber is in his last semester in the M.A. program in Linguistics/TESOL. He began his studies at the University of Münster, Germany, where he studied English and History. He then attended Staffordshire University in Stoke-on-Trent, England from 2005-2006, where he completed a B.A. degree in English for Literature and Cultural Studies. After another semester at the University of Münster, Constantin came to Ball State through an exchange program. Based on the experiences he had as a student and a teaching assistant for German at the Department of Modern Language & Classics, he decided to apply to the Linguistics/TESOL program. After three semesters in this program, he still enjoys the classes he is taking, as well as teaching ESL classes in the Intensive English Institute. Nonetheless, he is looking forward to graduating in May.

Constantin's research and teaching interests are strongly influenced by his experiences as a language learner and student in three different countries. Having observed language teaching and learning as well as social interaction between people from various different cultures with different first languages, he is highly interested in the areas of Sociolinguistics and Second Language Studies and their connections. Being a sports addict, he also likes to study language used in sports and sports reporting. Consequently, his M.A. research paper examines the construction of partisanship and identity in the narratives of radio broadcasts of soccer games. Constantin is also interested in teacher training and language teaching, which ties in with his interest in Second Language Studies. He has given a presentation at the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers' Conference in 2008 and will also present at the graduate student forum of the TESOL convention in 2009. Currently, he is applying to Ph.D. programs in (Applied) Linguistics and Second Language Studies, and he would like to teach at a college level in some place of the world,

although he is open for anything that meets his interests, which could involve working for non-profit organizations.

In his leisure time, Constantin enjoys running, good food, and a good drink. In fact, if you haven't yet seen him run around campus you probably aren't on campus or outside of RB that often. In terms of food and drinks, he likes to sample everything and hates leaving leftovers. Moreover, he suffers from the fact that playing and/or watching a decent game of men's (hats up to U.S. women's soccer) soccer is nearly impossible here in the U.S. If you get to know him in person, you have to deal with his directness and permanent criticism, as well as with his notorious unpunctuality, so watch out. At the same time, Constantin appreciates life, wherever he is. Graduating in May, he knows that he has many people here at Ball State who helped and supported him along the way: friends, classmates, professors, and his girlfriend, every one of them in her/his own way.

### WHAT ARE YOU READING?: PROFESSOR PEGGY RICE.....

I have been reading a variety of materials: Directions for taking medication (due to an unfortunate illness), college application materials (for my daughter, Sarah), professional journal articles from *Journal of Children's Literature*, *Language Arts*, and *Journal of Literacy Research* (for teaching and research), and lots of books (most in progress).

I consider myself fortunate that a primary aspect of my job as a teacher and scholar is to keep abreast of children's literature. Technology increases the interconnectivity in children's lives, and authors of books for children are responding with greater diversity, such as blurring of genres and the representation of various cultures. Because of this, I make changes in my list of required books for ENG 204 (Children's Literature) each time I teach it. In December I discovered the following three "really cool" children's books, which I am requiring for the first time this semester:

- *All in Just One Cookie*, by Susan Goodman, is an excellent example of faction. Readers learn lots of facts about the ingredients as they read a narrative of "grandma" making chocolate chip cookies with assistance from a personified dog and cat.
- *A Family of Poems*, compiled by Caroline Kennedy, is a superb, diverse collection of poetry (more than 100 poems from five continents) accompanied by gorgeous watercolor illustrations. Ten poems are also in their original languages.
- *Under the Spell of the Moon*, edited by Patricia Aldana, celebrates 32 acclaimed illustrators of children's literature from around the world. In honor of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), these illustrators donated a work of art to accompany a traditional verse from their childhood. The result is a remarkable collection of traditional writing, such as riddles, rhymes, songs, and poetry, presented in two languages and accompanied by art created for children around the world.

I have always provided my daughter, Sarah, with books that we both read and discuss. She's 17 now so, of course, I am reading the *Twilight* saga by Stephenie Meyer.

Another exciting aspect of my job is that I am able to choose my projects. For the EPIC Project (Evidence-based Professional and Instructional Change) in which Matt Stuve, Diane Bottomley, and I provide professional development to strengthen assessment and instruction to educators throughout the state of Indiana, I am reading a couple of excellent books focusing on assessment:

- *Checking for Understanding*, by Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey, focuses on formative assessment.
- *Classroom Assessment for Student Learning*, by Rick Stiggins, Judith Arter, Jan Chappuis and Steve Chappuis, is a comprehensive text on assessment (formative and summative)

Key aspects from these two books are also informing my instruction and my assessment of student learning in my campus courses.

In addition, I have a passion for old books and enjoy browsing through the old books in antique mall booths. I found the following three titles recently that I am reading/planning to read: *Audubon's America*, edited by Donald Culross Peattie (1940), *This I Remember*, by Eleanor Roosevelt (1949), and *Lincoln*, by Gore Vidal (one of my favorite authors). As a member of a book club, Renegade Readers, I decided to host our meeting in February on Fat Tuesday (in honor of my Louisiana roots). The book I selected for us to read is *The Moviegoer*, by Walker Percy. Since I can't be in the Quarter on Fat Tuesday, discussing Binx Bolling's fateful Mardi Gras will provide some satisfaction.

Overall, reading is a priority for me, so I make space for it in my daily schedule. I am grateful to be in a profession that requires me to read a variety of texts, especially quality children's literature. Allowing/finding time to read for pleasure is challenging, but I have learned that if I carry a book with me wherever I go, space becomes available. Yes, that was me reading *Twilight* while I was waiting in line to vote on Election Day!

## ON LEAVE.....

Professor Adam Beach (spring)

Professor Jackie Grutsch McKinney (spring)

Professor Mary Theresa Seig (spring)

Professor Robert Nowatzki (fall & spring)

Professor Lauren Onkey (fall & spring)

## SPRING SEMESTER DATES THAT MATTER (PLUS 2 IMPORTANT SUMMER DATES).....

### Events

Practical Criticism Midwest is scheduled for Friday, February 6, at the Virginia B. Ball Center.

The InPrint Festival will take place on March 25-26. Authors Nickole Brown, Laurie Lindeen, and Kyle Minor will be reading from their first books at 7 pm, March 25, at the Museum of Art (room 217). On March 26 at 7 pm, they'll be joined by Mehdi Okasi for a panel discussion on writing and publishing, also at the Museum of Art.

Indiana Poet Laureate Norbert Krapf, along with recording artist Monika Herzig, will give a reading and performance on April 5 at 2:30 at the Museum of Art.

### Scheduling & Administrative Details

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday will be celebrated on Monday, January 19, and university classes will be cancelled in observance. Special events are scheduled both on and off campus to honor Dr. King.

Assistantship applications for the 2009-2010 academic year are due Friday, January 30, 2009. Students who already hold an assistantship as well as students seeking assistantships *must* return the assistantship form by this date.

Spring Break: March 8-March 15.

Comprehensive exam dates: May 11 and 13, 2009 (lit students only); week of August 17, 2009.

## PEOPLE TO KNOW & HOW TO REACH THEM.....

**Grad Director:** Debbie Mix (dmmix@bsu.edu; 285-8415; RB 295)

**Assistant to Graduate Programs:** Shawna Sewell (srsewell@bsu.edu; 285-8415; RB 295)

**English Department Chair:** Patrick Collier (pccollier@bsu.edu; 285-8580; RB 285)

**English Department Assistant Chair:** Jill Christman (jcchristman@bsu.edu; 285-8580; RB 285)

**President of GSAB:** Karen Neubauer (ksneubauer@bsu.edu or gsab@bsu.edu; mailbox #100)