

Postings

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

Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts Moves to ISU

ISU's English department has recently become the editorial home for the *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, an interdisciplinary journal established by the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts in 1988. Professor **Brian Attebery** has been serving as the co-editor of the publication and as of January 1st became the sole editor. Other ISU people are involved as well. Thanks to funding from the Office of Research, Doctor of Arts student Monte Viera and reference librarian and interdisciplinary M.A. student Kristi Austen are sharing an appointment as editorial assistants. Creative writing instructor Greg Nicholl has designed a new template for the journal and is serving as production designer. The first issue edited at ISU should appear early in 2007.



Special points of interest and stories contained inside

- EGSA Conference has released their call for papers
- Debra Shein to appear in Documentary
- TESL Certification Program Up and Running

An Historical Dictionary of Epistemology Released in August 2006

Ralph Baergen's new book, *An Historical Dictionary of Epistemology* (Scarecrow Press) was released in August 2006. Baergen also has two medical ethics articles forthcoming: "How Hopeful is Too Hopeful: Responding to Unreasonably Optimistic Parents," in the *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, and "Revisiting Pharmacists' Refusals to Dispense Emergency Contraception," co-authored with Chris Owens, PharmD, in *Obstetrics and Gynecology*. Baergen and Owens are currently engaged in grant-funded research regarding physicians' resistance to pharmacist involvement in patient care. Baergen is also trying to patch holes in his inflatable boat, and finds that he can't get the synthetic rubber stuff off his hands.

Postings contains notes and updates that reflect the activities of the Department. It also provides information about upcoming activities and other points of interest.

Welcome, Lynn Shutters!



Lynn Shutters recently arrived in Pocatello, Idaho after spending most of her life on the East Coast. Born and raised in Virginia, she has lived in a Cameroonian village, New York City, and a number of other places that fall somewhere in between in terms of population, cost of living, and dining options. She completed her Ph.D. in English, specializing in late medieval literature, at New York University and has most recently taught at the University of Georgia. Research interests include representations

of gender, non-Christians, and historical progression in medieval texts as well as medievalism in modern-day film and politics. Lynn has published an article on Lydgate's *Troy Book* (*Comitatus*), and book chapters on the French romance *Floire et Blancheflor* and the film *The 13th Warrior*. She is currently working on an article on animal imagery and race in two medieval romances, and her book project considers representations of femininity and time in late-medieval literature.

Factoid: In the fall semester of 2006 there were 4,287 students registered in courses taught through the English & Philosophy Department.

Jennifer Eastman Attebery was recently appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The Swenson Center is the main archival center for research on the immigration of Swedes to America. As a member of the Advisory Committee, Attebery will be involved in selection of fellowship recipients, framing of Center policies, and planning for lectures and conferences held at the Center.

Adkison Leads Pedagogy Discussion of How We Learn & Who We Are

Steve Adkison was invited to lead a discussion—"How We Learn Who We Are: Connecting Learning Theory and Neural Studies"—on neural studies and learning theory at the Snake River Association for Neural Science's Fall Conference in Jackson, Wyoming on September 28-30.

SRAN, a chapter of the Society for Neuroscience, strives to promote intellectual discussion of neuroscience across a broad range of perspectives. The Association fosters communication among those interested in neuroscience, including basic and applied neuroscientists, educators, students and practitioners.

Adkison's research is focused on composition theory and instruction, particularly the relationship between neurobiology/cognitive development and composing, composition theory focused on learning theory and pedagogy, the influence of collaboration on the quality of learning, and the functions and values of thinking and writing across the disciplines.

Adkison's has also been named interim director of the Center for Teaching and Learning,. He will fulfill these additional responsibilities alongside his other duties in Academic Affairs.



Faculty and students share lots of good fun and conversation at the September Picnic. The Spring Picnic is tentatively scheduled for the Friday of Dead Week. All are invited to attend.

Hal Hellwig presented "Mark Twain's Travel: Looking for an Identity" at the SAMLA conference November 10-12. The specific focus was on Following the Equator.

Penelope Reedy read her poetry from the Blue Scarab Press chapbook *Café Royal* and The Redneck Press chapbook *The Last Fairfield Rodeo* in a session with other writers at the Western Literature Association conference in Boise in October.

Debra Shein to Appear in Documentary

Debra Shein, Lecturer in English, appeared in a documentary on Abigail Scott Duniway (1834-1915), leader of the early woman's movement in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington, co-produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting and the Oregon Historical Society. She also served as a consultant on the project, which will aired OPB channels on October 23 at 9:00 p.m. as a part of their "Oregon Experience" series. In conjunction with the release, OPB published Shein's editions of two of Duniway's novels, including critical commentary, on a web site being set up for the show: <http://www.opb.org/programs/oregonexperience/>. The novels, titled *Ethel Graeme's Destiny* (1878) and *Judge Dunson's Secret* (1883), are feminist westerns originally published in serialized form in Duniway's newspaper, *The New Northwest*, and are lively examples of the popular literature written in the late-nineteenth century to further the feminist cause. Shein recovered them from microfilm and is making them available to the public as a part of the documentary's celebration of Duniway's life and work. Another of Shein's editions of Duniway's novels, *Edna and John, A Romance of Idaho Flat* (1876), was published by Washington State University Press.

This year Shein completed a two-year term as president of the Pacific Northwest American Studies Association, a regional chapter of the national American Studies Association. In that role, she organized the group's 2006 conference, held in Spokane, which featured nearly 100 presenters addressing the theme of "Making Connections: Readers, Writers, Texts." Shein's article, "When Geography Matters: Mary Hallock Foote's 'Maverick' and the Mysteries of the Snake River Lava Beds," was published in the Spring 2006 edition of *American Literary Realism*. Her article "The Imperiled Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" will be appearing in a forthcoming issue of *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*. She was recently awarded an ISU Podcasting Mini-Grant.

Thomas Klein was on sabbatical leave during fall 2006. While on leave he has been working on a number of research projects, including work on the perception of time in *Beowulf*, and a new interpretation of the strange Anglo-Saxon artifact, the Franks Casket, which incorporates images and runes carved into whalebone. He is also training to run an ultra marathon.

Jessica Winston was an invited speaker at an international conference, "The Early Modern Inns of Court" in London, September 14-16. Her talk was titled, "Forming a Professional Community: Lyric Poetry at the Early Elizabethan Inns of Court."

Welcome Leif Sorensen! Leif received his Ph.D. from New York University in 2005. Before coming to ISU he taught multi-ethnic literatures of the United States and contemporary literature at University of Georgia. His essay on Zora Neale Hurston was published in *MELUS* and he has articles forthcoming in *American Literature and Genre*. His specialization is comparative multicultural literatures with additional interests in experimental writing, popular culture, and interdisciplinary and transnational approaches to American

EGSA Sponsors 3rd Annual Conference

The English Graduate Student Association is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Intermountain Graduate Student Conference, a conference-partnership between the English graduate students of Idaho State University and Utah State University. We invite submissions related to our theme of Living, Writing, and Teaching in the West. This is an interdisciplinary conference open to contributions from all relevant fields. We aim to gain new insights about and recognize relationships within the Intermountain West by listening and discussing, reading and writing together.

Additional Information can be requested by contacting Michael Stubbs (stubmich@isu.edu), Monty Vierra (viermont@isu.edu), or Robert Mitrik (mitrobe@isu.edu).

Sonja Launspach and **Janna Graham** participated by presenting papers and chairing sessions at the Rocky Mountain MLA Conference held in Tuscon, Arizona in October.

Spring Release for Swetnam Books

Susan Swetnam has two books in press, both due out spring 2007. One is a collection of personal essays about teaching based on the lives of Catholic saints published by Loyola Press (Chicago). The other a study of the social history of Carnegie libraries in the Intermountain West, to be published by Eastern Washington University Press. She is serving as lead scholar on the Idaho Humanities Council's "Key Ingredients" project, which involves a Smithsonian traveling exhibit about food and culture. The exhibit will visit six Idaho communities in 2006-07. She's giving lectures and writing workshops and editing a collection of writing about food by Idahoans.

Swetnam gave a paper on Idaho writer Grace Jordan at the Western Literature Association conference in Boise in October, based on monograph, *Grace Jordan*, which was published in spring 2006 as part of Boise State's Western Writers Series.

The **American Interest Group** and the **Linguistic Reading Group** are still going strong. For information about topics and or schedules, please contact the following individuals:

American Interest Group— Brian Norman, 282-4387

Linguistic Reading Group—Sonja Launspach, 282-2237

Undergraduate News

The [Literary Association](#) has begun the semester in fine form! In addition to recruiting some energetic new members, the club also has plans to form peer editing groups for both creative and academic works. The group has selected Alice Seybold's *The Lovely Bones* as its selection for the Marathon Reading to be held later in the semester. President Devori Kimbro is also excited about the fruitful relationship that has been formed with the English Graduate Student Association. The two organizations are working together to plan new and fun activities including fundraisers and readings. The EGSA has even invited Literary Association members to participate in their upcoming conference as pages. Any questions regarding membership should be directed to club president Devori Kimbro at kimbdevo@isu.edu.

Jennifer Adkison's article "'These is my words'. . . or are they?: Constructing Western Women's Lives in Two Contemporary Novels" was published in the winter 2006 *Great Plains Quarterly*. Supported by funding from the ISU Faculty Research Committee and previously by an Idaho Humanities Council research grant, she is currently finishing work on a scholarly edition of Sarah Royce's western narrative about life as a '49er on the overland trail and in California. She discussed her work on Sarah Royce in a presentation entitled "Appropriating Voice: Textual Editing and Western Women's Narratives" at the annual Western Literature Association conference in October in Boise.

A Focus of Ethnicity and Gender

Brian Norman's first scholarly monograph, *Addressing Division: The American Protest Essay and National Belonging*, is forthcoming in the fall 2007 catalog from the State University of New York Press. He is also guest editing a special issue on "Representing Segregation" of *African American Review*, the leading journal in his field, with Piper Kendrix Williams, Assistant Professor of English and African American Studies at the College of New Jersey.

Norman's article, "The Consciousness-Raising Document, Feminist Anthologies, and Black Women in Sisterhood Is Powerful (1970)," is forthcoming in the next issue of *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies*. His article, "Crossing Identitarian Lines:

Women's Liberation and James Baldwin's Early Essays," just appeared in *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* [35.3 (2006): 241-64].

Brian presented research on his next major project at this year's American Literature Association in San Francisco in May in a paper entitled "Suzan-Lori Parks' Neo-Segregation Narrative." He is hosting a bi-weekly (or so) discussion group on ethnic literature and pedagogy this semester open to all graduate students.

Brian has recently been appointed Co-Director of the Women's Studies Program. Laura Woodworth-Ney (History) will remain as Co-Director.

Curt Whitaker gave two conference papers in the spring, "Baptisms and Burials: The Presence of the Book of Common Prayer in Herbert's Nature Poetry," at the Rocky Mountain Medieval & Renaissance Association Conference, and "Sir Thomas Fairfax and the Mowers of Nun Appleton," at the Renaissance Society of America Conference. The Herbert piece was published by *The George Herbert Journal* over the summer.

Brent Wolter's article "Lexical network structures and L2 vocabulary acquisition: The role of L1 lexical/conceptual knowledge" will appear in the December issue of *Applied Linguistics*. He has also written a section about teaching speaking in Japan that recently appeared in *The Art of Teaching Speaking* by Keith Folse of the U of Central Florida (Michigan University Press).

Over the years, friends and alumni of the department have been charitable with their contributions, and we sincerely appreciate your generosity. These contributions have allowed us to bring guest speakers and artists to campus, provide match funding for much needed technology and system upgrades, assist with funding the literary magazine *Black Rock & Sage*, and offer more scholarship opportunities. If you are interested in contributing to the department, please contact Terry Engebretsen, Chair, engeterr@isu.edu or call the department office at 208-282-2478.

TEFL Certification Program Up and Running

The Department is now offering a Graduate Certificate in TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language). The course requires 18 credit hours of study including 12 that are specifically designed to be program curriculum and six additional credits in linguistics. The TESL Certificate offers students an:

- ◆ Increased understanding of the methodologies, strategies, and resources teachers use in effective ESL classrooms.
- ◆ Opportunities for practical experience and feedback from teacher observations, lesson presentations, and microteaching during practicum.
- ◆ Introduction of teaching strategies, techniques, and access to resources to excel in ESL classrooms.

For more information contact Dr. Sonja Launspach (sllauns@isu.edu) or Brent Wolter (woltbren@isu.edu).

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