

English Department Newsletter

21 April 2010



The newsletter is published biweekly throughout the academic year.
The next (and last) issue of the academic year will appear on 5 May 2010.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The Playhouse of American Classics presents Paul Osborn's comedy *Morning's at Seven*, at the Buffalo and Erie Country Historical Society. Robert Paolini directs this story of four sisters, who live on the same block, love each other and drive each other crazy. Show-times are *this weekend!* Friday, April 23, at 8 pm; Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25, at 2 pm; and Sunday, April 25 at 6 pm. Tickets are \$18; students, seniors and groups, \$13. For reservations call (716) 873-9644, ext. 301. For more information, contact PAC artistic director [Terence McDonald](#).



Poet Jonathan Skinner will read his work on Monday, 26 April at 4 pm in Assembly Hall. Skinner edits the journal *ecopoetics*, focused on creative-critical intersections between writing and ecology. A published poet himself, he writes eco-criticism on contemporary poetry and poetics, essays exploring the role of aesthetics in intersections between nature and culture, and the role of language in our perceptions of the natural world.



At **Gallery 464** on Amherst Street, on April 28, **Karen Sands-O'Connor** will be the featured reader and there are also open mic slots for anyone else who wants to join the fun—open mic sign-up starts at 6:30 pm, and the reading begins at 7 pm

The series *Conversations in and out of the Disciplines* will conclude next week when **Kim Chinquee** will present "Flash Fiction, Prose Poetry and Men Jumping out of Windows: Search for Plot and Finding Definitions." The presentation will be held **in Ketchum 320, on Friday, 30 April, 3-4:30 pm**, and is open to faculty and graduate students.

The following English Department students will be presenting their research at the **Student Research and Creativity Celebration on Saturday, 1 May**. Check out the program (available [here](#)) and then come support the work of **Philip Bowman, Tyler Johnson, Kevin Kaminski, Angela Lambrix, Tom Poehnelt, Kelsey Till, Carly Wacker, and Jeremy Williams**.

The **English Department retreat to discuss the B.A. program** and curricular matters will be held on Friday, 7 May (study day)—now scheduled from 9 am to 1 pm, including Food. Please let [Ralph Wahlstrom](#) know of any particular issues you would like to discuss.

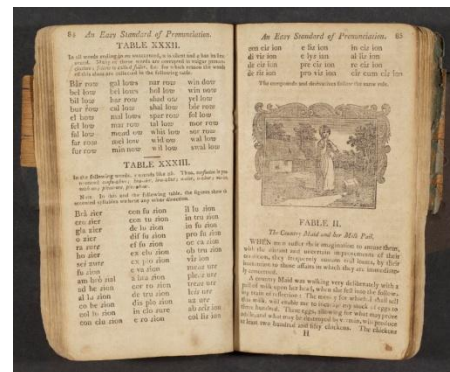
The **English Department Award ceremony** will take place on May 7 (following the retreat) in Cleveland Hall 418 at 4 pm. Please come and celebrate our students' achievements.

REMINDERS and USEFUL INFORMATION

This spring, the Burchfield Penney Art Center will host the nationally celebrated exhibition *Heat Waves in a Swamp: The Paintings of Charles Burchfield*, organized with the Hammer Museum at UCLA. In conjunction with the exhibit, the Burchfield Penney is organizing a **Heat Waves in a Swamp Art Criticism Writing Invitational** for high school and college students. Deadline for submissions to the competition is 1 May, and information is available from [Alana Ryder](#).

The **Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies** will hold its 2010 annual meeting at the Hyatt Regency in **Buffalo, 21-23 October 2010**. This conference is being organized by faculty from Buffalo State (Lisa Berglund and Mark Fulk in English and Andrew Nicholls in History), together with faculty from the University at Buffalo and Canisius College. The conference theme is “Inquiry, Pedagogy, Exploration: Studying the Eighteenth Century.”

Faculty and graduate students are invited to submit **abstracts for scholarly papers and roundtable discussions on any eighteenth-century studies subject**, though papers on the conference theme are particularly welcome. For more information, visit the [conference website](#). Discounted registration is available to graduate students and to local secondary school teachers; details will be posted later this month. NEASECS offers an excellent opportunity for graduate students to gain professional conference experience. **The deadline for submitting abstracts is 15 May**. For information on the submitting papers, contact [Erik Seeman](#); for other information, contact [Lisa Berglund](#).





As co-director of Project Flight, **Geraldine Bard** is helping to conduct the community-wide annual **Books for Kids drive**. Since 1995, Books for Kids has distributed more than 1.5 million books to children in poverty in Buffalo and the surrounding area. Buffalo is one of the poorest cities in the nation, with an estimated one-third of children living in

poverty. If you would like to help get books to these children, consider a donation of new books or cash during the drive which ends April 30. Drop off new books at any Wegmans or public library branch, or mail a check made out to "Project Flight/News Books for Kids" to The Buffalo News Promotions Department, One News Plaza, P. O. Box 100, Buffalo, N Y 14240.

Scholars in the field of reading research are encouraged to submit applications for the **2010-2011 Jeanne S. Chall Research Grant**. The grant provides a stipend for a scholar to spend 2-8 weeks at the Harvard Graduate School of Education to conduct research utilizing the Jeanne S. Chall Collection on the Teaching of Reading. Additionally, the researcher will have access to other extensive reading resources available in Special Collections, Gutman Library and elsewhere at Harvard University. The Chall Collection consists of books and other materials related to the history of reading research and the teaching of reading, spanning both the 19th and 20th centuries. Most of the materials are dated from the 1950s through 1980s and include reading textbooks, curriculum sets, and scholarly works.

The **research should focus on beginning reading, reading instruction, reading difficulty, or other related topics in the field. Additionally, projects may be historical in nature, focus on textual analysis**, or relate to the research and writing of Jeanne Chall. The award will support travel to and from Cambridge and other expenses (up to a total of \$2500). Applicants must hold a doctoral degree from an accredited institution of higher learning. Please include a current resume and a project proposal not exceeding 500 words in length. The application deadline is **May 14, 2010**. Send to [Edward Copenhagen](#), Special Collections Librarian, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Gutman Library, 6 Appian Way, Cambridge, MA 02138.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Three of our faculty presented research at the 2010 NEMLA conference in Montreal, 8-11 April. **Heidi Dietz-Faletti** read a paper entitled "Compulsive Patterns of Materialistic Pursuit in Stroheim's *Greed*" for the section "Representations of the Working-Class in Film" (Seminar). **Jennifer Ryan** gave a paper on "Understanding the New Black Poetry: Carolyn Rodgers and the Poetics of Black Arts" as part of the

"Poetics and Worldview: The Poet as Cultural Critic" panel. And **Lorna Perez** presented "Nations in Exile: Feminism, Dislocation and the Death of the Patriarch in Rosario Ferre's *The House on the Lagoon*."

Lorna also performed the poetry of Aimé Césaire and Pedro Pietri on Sunday, April 18 for the "Faces of America" presentation sponsored by the Association of Faculty and Staff of African descent.

Theresa Harris-Tigg has been elected 1st Vice President of The Association of Faculty & Staff of African Descent (AFSAD). This is a two-year term and the major focus of AFSAD is to promote cultural, academic, and professional growth within the BSC community.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

More than thirty **alumni and faculty** gathered for the **English Department's Alumni Reception on 19 March**. Many thanks to **Maureen Lougen** for her hard work in organizing the event.



Counterclockwise from left:
Dr. Peter Ramos, Dr. David Landrey,
Eric Bradshaw and Nikki Carroll;
Michelle Anderson, D. Hattie Strnad
and Dr. Aimable Twagilimana; Dr.
Barbara Bontempo and Mary Poehnel.



Counterclockwise from left: Collette Gardner and Dr. Adrienne Costello; Dr. Charles Bachman and Aimee Levesque; Dr. Craig Werner and Julie O'Connor Colvin.



Alumni!—We want to share your news!
Send updates and weblinks to [Lisa Berglund](#) or [Maureen Lougen](#).

Sigma Tau Delta's Alpha Pi Chi Chapter is thrilled to announce that three of its graduates have accepted admission into graduate programs.

- **Tom Poehnelt** (who was admitted to MA programs at the University at Buffalo's American Studies program, as well as the MA programs in English at SUNY Fredonia and St.



Bonaventure) will be attending New York University in the fall where he will be pursuing an MA in the English and American Literature program.

- **Ryan Pirosch** (who was admitted to the MA program in English at the University at Buffalo and St. Bonaventure) will be pursuing his MA at the University at Buffalo.

- **Angela Lambrix** (admitted to the MA programs at the University of Rochester, St. Bonaventure, and SUNY Fredonia) will be pursuing her MA at the University at Buffalo.

FINALLY ...

Check out this fascinating story from Monday's *New York Times*: [Scrawled in the Margins, Signs of Twain as a Critic](#). The moral of the story: write in your books and never sell a book without flipping through it. (I often bought books at the used book sales at the Redding Library. What I may have overlooked!)

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Buffalo State College
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