

English News

April-May 2008, Volume 6, Issue 7



Department News

Liz Arnold '08 is pursuing a master's degree in English, focusing on creative writing and teaching, from Arcadia University (near Philadelphia) beginning in the fall of 2008.

Laura Barnes '08 accepted a teaching position at York Suburban High School this coming September.

Khara House '08 has been accepted to an MFA program at American University.

Leon Leid '09 presented an essay entitled "Leaving Home" at the EAPSU (English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities) conference at California University of Pennsylvania in California PA on March 29. This year's conference was entitled "I Dwell in Possibility". **To read an excerpt from Leon's paper, visit the English Department blog at <http://blogs.messiah.edu/english/page/2/>**

Professors Jean Corey and Helen Walker presented a session in New Orleans at the Conference for Composition and Communication April 3. Entitled "Writing to Change the Reality of Global AIDS: What Can an English Teacher Do?" it focused on the writing classroom as a place to discover how our writing can be a useful tool of transformation and social justice. Peter Wasamba, our guest from Kenya, was a part of the session also.

The ECWCA (East Central Writing Centers Association) Annual Conference is a chance for writing center tutors and directors from all across the eastern and central United States to meet in one place for two days of intensive workshopping, conversation, panel discussions and debates. Everyone who attends has the chance to talk with some of the head researchers and scholars in the field of writing center theory, as well as present their own findings and experiences.

This year the large, sprawling campus of Ohio State University hosted over three-hundred name-tagged, map-carrying conference attendees. And for the first time in five years, Messiah College sent representatives: **Dr. David Dzaka** (the writing center director), **Timothy Mackie** and **Danielle Sahn**. They attended a variety of sessions, including ones about tutor training, writing narrative essays, introducing online tutoring to writing centers, mentorship in the writing center, and grammar. In addition to attending sessions, Tim and Danielle held a session of their own where they discussed some of the unique challenges and advantages of tutoring at a writing center on a small campus (like Messiah). Because audience members came from a wide variety of campuses and their writing centers staffed anywhere from ten to fifty tutors, this presentation engendered a lot of discussion, and the session seemed beneficial to audience members and presenters alike.

E-mail items of interest to mm1296@messiah.edu

Alumni News

John Francis '01, a musician and songwriter whose lyrics focus on social justice, is currently working on his third album, which will be produced by John Carter Cash. His previous albums are "The Philadelphia EP" and "Strong Wine & Spirits." Last year he was invited to sing at the U.N. Summit to End Extreme Poverty and his song "Trouble in These Times" was nominated for folk song of the year by the National Folk Alliance. He also recently taught a course on the incarnational nature of Johnny Cash's songs. The department hopes to have him in the future to lead a song writing workshop.

Jordan Windholz '05 is accepted to Fordham University's Early Modern/Renaissance Ph.D. program. Windholz's manuscript, *Ruminant [psalms]* was also a semi-finalist for the [Alice James Beatrice Hawley Award](#).

Chris Herb '07 works at the Times Chronicle in Fort Washington, which covers Cheltenham Township and Jenkintown.

Erin Jones '07 will be pursuing an MA in Professional Writing at Carnegie Mellon University. The Professional Writing program is designed to prepare students for careers as writers, communications specialists, and information designers working in government, business, and industry in this new era.

Becky '96 and Dave Kasperek announce the birth of Clare Alma, April 2, 2008. Becky is the editor of Messiah College's *The Bridge* magazine, and Dave is associate professor of graphic design at Messiah.

Heather Bruyere '07 moved back to Chile in September 2007 and is

working at San Francisco Javier Colegia in Puerto Montt, Chile. She teaches English to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. She also works with the youth at her church and got married on February 23, 2008.

Kristine Steakley's '92 book, *Child of Divorce, Child of God: A Journey of Hope and Healing*, is now available for pre-orders on Amazon. The release date is September 1. You can order now by going to her blog and clicking on the Amazon link on the right hand side of the page.

To read several blog posts by Ben Thorpe '07, who is now helping start an English language program at a Chilean university, visit the English Department blog at <http://blogs.messiah.edu/english/>

Opportunities

The London Review of Books is holding a competition for young reviewers. The prize for the best entry is £1000 and a one-year subscription to the LRB. Prizes may also be awarded for runners-up. Each entrant should submit one review, praising or unpraising, between 2500 and 3000 words long, of any work of fiction or poetry published after the beginning of 2007. The review must be original, unpublished work (it is allowed to have appeared in a student periodical). Entrants must be under the age of 26 at the closing date, 2 June 2008. Please send submissions, along with contact details, to competition@lrb.co.uk (as an attachment), or by post to:
The Editors
London Review of Books
28 Little Russell Street
London
WC1A 2HN
Visit <http://www.lrb.co.uk/competition/> for more information about *The London Review of Books*

On October 16-18, 2008, a conference called "**The Poetics of Conflict and Reconciliation**" will be held at Bridgewater Conference. For more information, visit the conference website at: <http://www.bridgewater.edu/~sgallowa/poetics08>.

The Third Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies will be held at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa., on Saturday December 6, 2008. Undergraduate students may deliver 15-minute papers or presentations in art history, literature, history, music, philosophy, religion, or any other discipline dealing with the medieval and/or early modern eras. Groups of students may propose 45-minute musical or dramatic presentations. Abstracts of papers will be due November 10, 2008. More details about last year's conference can be found at www.moravian.edu/medieval.html.

Entries are now being accepted for the 28th annual Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition, created to recognize and encourage the efforts of writers who have not yet achieved major-market success. Writers will compete for a \$1,000 first prize, \$500 second prize, and \$500 third prize in this internationally acclaimed competition. Several honorable mentions are also awarded each year. Stories in all genres of fiction are welcome. Maximum length is 3,000 words, and writers retain all rights to their work. The final deadline is May 15, 2008; winners will be announced at the end of July. Visit www.shortstorycompetition.com for further background and listings of previous winners and

for complete submission guidelines. Or e-mail short-storykw@aol.com with questions.

Saint Louis University's Madrid campus offers a dual degree graduate program in English Language and Literature. For more information, visit http://spain.slu.edu/academics/ac_gradcour_ma_eng_adm.html.

Drew University offers a one-year master of arts in teaching program. Teaching certificates can be earned in biology, chemistry, English, math, Spanish, and social studies. Visit <http://www.drew.edu/grad.aspx> for more information.

The Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee is sponsoring a history essay contest. The deadline for the John Horsch Mennonite History Essay Contest is June 15, 2008. First place in each category will win \$100 plus a one-year subscription to *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, second place participants will receive \$75, and third place participants will receive \$50. More information about guidelines and submission can be found at <http://www.mcusa-archives.org/>.

The Iowa Summer Writing Festival offers 130 workshops. Writers 21 and over can study June 8-July 25, 2008 at either week-long or weekend workshops. For more information, visit www.uiowa.edu/~iswfest.

The Sheridan Press (Hanover, PA) has an opening for a Journal Production Editor. This full-time position includes copyediting and issue management for technical journals. A degree in English and experience in publishing/printing is preferred. If interested, please contact Maggie Hauser '06 at

mhauser@tsp.sheridan.com.

Rain Farm Press (www.rainfarmpress.com), which publishes a quarterly online art/literary journal called Paradigm (www.paradigmjournal.com), announces its inaugural novel contest. It is open to submissions from any genre. The deadline is July 31, 2008. Finalists will be judged by best-selling novelist Raymond Benson, author of "Sweetie's Diamonds" as well as books in the James Bond series. The contest's winner will receive a cash prize of \$500 and see their novel published by Rain Farm Press in winter 2008. The book will be made available through all online outlets, the publisher's website, and select bookstores. Additionally, a book excerpt and interview with the winning author will be featured in the October issue of Paradigm. There is a \$20 entry fee for the contest. A standard publishing contract is offered. Further details regarding the contest can be found at the Rain Farm Press website (www.rainfarmpress.com/contests.html).

Bucknell University has a master of arts in English. The program offers assistantships and tuition remission. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis starting March 1. For more information, visit www.bucknell.edu/English.xml.