

# after WORDS alumni newsletter



department of english

northern arizona university

spring 2009

volume xii

Dear Friends,

Despite our state being plagued by severe economic recession and budget angst, the Department of English continues to move forward, thanks to excellent faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and friends. If you forge ahead through our newsletter, you will see talented faculty dedicated to teaching and research, some of this year's amazing events created to educate and inspire our students, and a sample of our outstanding alumni accomplishments. Back home in Flagstaff, over the next two summers, we plan to move forward with the renovation of the entire Liberal Arts Building, including a new 200-seat Art Cinematheque auditorium for movies and presentations, and we hope you will plan a future visit to see our progress. On behalf of the entire department, to all of our alumni and friends, thank you for your good wishes and support. We send you our warmest regards.

Allen Woodman and Angela Hansen

## PROFESSOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### **Steve Rosendale**

Professor of English, gave a plenary address titled "Social Justice Environmentalism and the American City: A Literary Perspective" to the Annual Conference on Cities at University of Missouri St. Louis's Center for the Humanities. His essay "The American West In Red and Green: US Proletarian Fiction and The Literary History Of Left Ecology" was published in *Crisscrossing the Borders of the American West*, edited by Cheli Reutter and Reginald VanDyke (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).

### **Anne Scott**

Professor of English, along with Cynthia Kosso of the History Department, recently published *Water, Baths, Bathing, and Hygiene from Late Antiquity to the Early Modern Period*, through Brill Publishers, the Netherlands, 2009.

### **Laura Gray-Rosendale**

Professor of English, published "iRhetorics and Undergraduate Research: A Journey into the Genre of Memoir" in *New Directions in Undergraduate Scholarship* with Joyce Kinhead and Laurie Grobman. Her essay "'Show Us the Money: Issues of Politics, Economics, and Access in On-Line Graduate Teaching'" will be published in *Economies of Writing: On Language and Value in Composition Studies* with Wendy Olsen, Siskanna Naynaha, and Victor Villanueva. President John Haeger and Provost Liz Grobsmith selected Dr. Gray-Rosendale as a President's Distinguished Teaching Fellow for 2009 - 2010. This award honors the top echelon of faculty who demonstrate excellence and leadership in teaching.

### **William Crawford**

Associate Professor of English, published "The mandative subjunctive" in Günter Rohdenburg & Julia Schlüter

**Professors** *continued*

(eds.) *One language, two grammars? Differences between British and American English*. (Studies in English Language series). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press and "Time and place adverbs in L1 and L2 student writing: A corpus approach to frequency and function" In Annelie Ädel & Randi Reppen (eds.), *Exploring discourse through corpora* (Studies in Corpus Linguistics series). Philadelphia: John Benjamins. He also recently gave two international conference presentations and an invited teacher-training workshop in Thailand.

**Nancy Paxton**

Professor of English, published "From Cosmopolitan Romance to Transnational Fiction: Rereading Jean Devanny's Australian Novels," in Penny Russell, Desley Deacon, and Angela Woollacott, eds. *Transnational Ties: Australian Lives in the World*. Canberra: ANU E-Press, (December 2008) and "Male Sexuality on the Frontier: D. H. Lawrence's *Kangaroo*," in Virginia Hyde and Earl Ingersoll, eds. *A Window to the Sun': D. H. Lawrence's Thought Adventures* through Dickinson Univ. Press, 2009. Both of these essays are the

outgrowth of research for her larger project, *Books Travel: Literary Censorship in a Global Frame*.

**Randi Reppen**

Professor of English, recently co-edited a book with A. Adel titled *Corpora and Discourse: The challenges of different settings* (Amsterdam: John Benjamins, June, 2008). In addition, she recently published an article with M. Helt titled *Training teachers to use corpus resources* (2008) in the TEIS Newsletter, 23 (2). Dr. Reppen has given several presentations including *Applying corpus linguistics to look at...* an invited plenary for the IVACS conference in Limerick, Ireland in June of 2008 and *Corpus linguistics and language teaching* an invited plenary workshop for CA TESOL in Sacramento, CA. in April of 2008.

**Doug Biber**

Professor of English, was recently awarded a research fellowship by the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies in Freiburg, Germany (Nov-Dec 2008) and the Ian Gordon Fellowship, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (Apr-May 2009). In addition, Dr. Biber was a Visiting Professor for the

**Professors** *continued*

Graduate School, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (April 2008). Dr. Biber currently has two books in press: Conrad, S., and D. Biber. *Corpus grammar: Real grammar for English learners*. (Publication date: June 2009) and Biber, D., and S. Conrad. *Register, genre, and style*. Cambridge University Press. (Publication date: September 2009).

**Donelle Ruwe**

Associate Professor of English, published an essay in the book *MLA Approaches to Teaching Poe's Prose and Poetry* entitled "Poe, Literary Theory, and the English Education Course" and a chapter on 19th-century women's fantasy, gothic, mythic and otherworldly poetry for a new multi-volume reference work, *Women in Science Fiction and Fantasy*, released by Greenwood Publishing Group (2009). Her other contributions include entries on the gothic, Christina Rossetti, and Sara Coleridge. Dr. Ruwe authored a biographical-critical essay introducing the poetry of Adelaide O'Keefe, an Irish writer who authored the first children's novel-in-verse in 1819. The essay is part of a new electronic publication effort by

Alexander Street Press called *Irish Women Poets of the Romantic Period*.

**Fredricka Stoller**

Professor of English, co-authored a book entitled *Write Like a Chemist: A Resource and Guide* (2008, Oxford University Press). The book was the final outcome of a multiple-year National Science Foundation interdisciplinary collaborative effort with Marin Robinson, Professor of Chemistry. Other results of the project have been published in the *Journal of Chemical Education*, the *English Teaching Forum*, and *Across the Disciplines*. Directly related to this work was a keynote address given by Fredricka Stoller at The Carnegie Mellon University Communication Symposium on Developing Disciplinary Literacy in June 2008.

**Nicole Walker**

Assistant Professor of English, recently published several essays: "Making It Palatable" appeared in *Hotel Amerika*, "All Fall Down" in *Pinch*, and "Amalgamated Products Are Us." The poems "MRI 1, 2, 3, 4," appeared in the *American Poetry Journal* and the poems "Wave" and "MRI 6" will appear in

**Professors** *continued*

Interim and "Doppler by Rail" will appear in *Versal*. The essay "Drought-tolerant Tamerisk" will appear in *Post Road*. The essay "Slip" from *Crazyhorse* was a notable essay in this year's Best American Essays. She also presented at the Bending Genre panel at the Associated Writing Programs and is creative consultant for a movie about Spoken Word poetry.

**Okim Kang**

Assistant Professor of English (TESL/Applied Linguistics), (co-) authored three articles published in the referred journals, *Modern Language Journal* entitled "Judgments of ELL proficiency in oral English and acoustic measures of accentedness (2009)", *Journal of Language and Social Psychology* entitled "Reverse Linguistic Stereotyping: Measuring the Effect of Listener Expectations on Speech Evaluation (2009)", and *Spain Fellow Working Papers* entitled "The effect of rater background characteristics on the rating of International Teaching Assistants Speaking Proficiency (2008)". She has also presented her research papers at the following conferences for the period of July 2008 – April, 2009:

American Association for Applied Linguistics, Denver, Colorado (March, 2009); Academic Session, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Convention, Denver, Colorado (March, 2009); Language Testing Research Colloquium/ International Language Testing Association, Denver, Colorado (March, 2009); The East Coast Organization of Language Testers, Washington D.C. (November, 2008); International Association of Language and Social Psychology, Tucson, AZ. (July, 2008).

**Bill Grabe**

Regents' Professor published a new book, *Reading in a second language: Moving from theory to practice* (Cambridge University Press, 2009). He has also published an article with Fredricka Stoller and others in the *Journal of Chemical Education* (on writing), and four articles in edited volumes on various aspects of second-language reading abilities and reading instruction. He has also been a co-Principal Investigator on a research project, funded by Educational Testing Service, exploring an innovative assessment task type for second-

**Professors** *continued*

language reading tests. He also gave plenary talks at AZTESOL and TEXTESOL IV, and he was a featured speaker at TESOL with Fredricka Stoller.

**Angela Hansen**

Assistant Professor of English, recently published an article "Shedding Light on Literacy" in the *Arizona English Bulletin* (50)1 and she published a chapter entitled "Helping Preservice Teachers Reconcile Standardization and Diversity: Bridging Analytic and Critical Literacy" in Taylor, G. S, Hinton, K, and Moore, L. (eds) text *Teaching Multicultural Literature to Help Children Understand Ethnic Diversity: Essays and Experiences* published by Edwin Mellon press, 2009. She also gave a presentation entitled "Multicultural Literature in the English Language Arts Classroom: Shifting from Calls for Inclusion to Ideas for Implementation" at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Conference in November of 2008.

**Scott Guenthner**

Lecturer, in conjunction with Dr. Nancy Barron and Syblle Gruber, published chapter entitled "Imagining Social

Action: Tailoring Multimedia Production to the First-Year Writing Classroom" in the text *Service-learning in the Composition Classroom* which is part of the Fountainhead Press X Series.

**Jean Palumbo**

Lecturer in English, worked with Dr. Thomas Sisk of NAU's Center for Sustainable Environments on an informal study to follow-up on a collaborative landscape analysis and forest management workshop conducted in north-central New Mexico in late 2006. Their purpose was to determine if the workshop had been successful in encouraging collaborative solutions to forest health problems. The results, gathered through interviews of the original participants in the workshop, were described in a public information insert which was published in the Santa Fe New Mexican in January 2009.

## alumni UPDATE

Our alumni sure are keeping busy. This is where they are now. Keep the good news coming our way!

**Susan Stevens** (M.A. Creative Writing, 1989) serves in the Army's Instructional Design in a career intern program. She has taught at Augusta State University, Georgia Military College, among others. She also published poems on [voicesonthewind.net](http://voicesonthewind.net) and is having two book reviews published in the April-June issue of *Engineer*. She is also writing a novel *Finding It Out*. This creative work provides much needed counterbalance to her technological job.

**David Lowe** (B.A. General English, 1993) in 2008 was elected President and General Manager of California's KVIE Public Television. Previous to this appointment, Lowe worked in marketing management with Fortune 500 Transamerica Corp. and served on national committees for PBS and on the board of directors for the Sacramento Asian Pacific and Stockton Chamber of Commerce.

**David M. Grant** (M.A. Rhetoric and Composition 1999) obtained a PhD in Rhetoric and Composition from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is currently an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Northern Iowa. He lives in Cedar

Falls with his wife and two young children.

**Maura Betler** (M.A. General English 2006) Betler serves as the Principal Technical Writer for Communications Intelligence Products at Pitney Bowes Business Intelligence.

**Peter Fredlake** (M.A. General English 1983) After teaching high school for thirty years, Fredlake now coordinates teacher training at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

**Helen Ann Mesmer** (M.A. General English 1996) is an Adult Basic Education/GED instructor for the North Platte, NE WorkForce Development Onestop Center. After

attending the COABE National Conference, she returns with new, innovative strategies. She enjoys watching trains and laughing with her 2 year old daughter and schnauzer.

**Nicole Tracy-Ventura** (PhD Applied Linguistics 2008) has accepted a competitive appointment as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Spanish Linguistics at Southampton University in the United Kingdom. The doctoral program and dissertation work she completed at NAU will provide the

research expertise essential in this new post.

**Rylan Morton-Starner**, (NAU alumni, General English) Fall 2008, and Flagstaff native, moved to Ecuador in January 2009. Rylan completed an internship with *Mountain Living* during the Fall 2008 establishing his writing for a nonacademic audience. Rylan works with the *Ecuador Reporter* the only English speaking newspaper in Ecuador as a travel writer. His most recent story made their top story. He is currently

learning Spanish and volunteering with a restoration program.

## An eventFUL YEAR

### Ekphrasis II: Writers in the Art Gallery:



(Mark Gula)

April 17<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> in NAU's Old Main Art Gallery the Ekphrasis II: Writers in the Art Gallery was displayed.

According to Allen Woodman, "Writers in the ENG 609 fiction workshop searched through the NAU Art Museum collection and selected individual art works to use as springboards for their original very short works of fiction, under 250 words. There's a great literary history of art inspiring stories and poems. What is the power of this enduring literary tradition? As Jane Armstrong asks in a recent anthology, 'How can words possibly capture the physical immediacy of a brush stroke, the curve of a marbled face, the direct pleasure of seeing a work of art? How can words convey the ineffable?'"

The featured student writers are as follows: David Arnold, Traci Avalos,

Darell Diedrich, Jeff Glenn, Mark Gula, Nick Kraft, Aaron Levy, Katie Phelps, Hannah Pralle, and Perry Robles

### 2009 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Peaks Conference: "Confluence"

The conference Kick-off event on the afternoon of Feb. 25, featured a panel discussion with Dr. Greg Glau, Dr. Nicole Walker, and Dr. Andres Rodriguez on "Confluence: Language, Culture, and Community," which explored the implications of the conference theme and new possibilities for interdisciplinary research in the many subfields of English studies as well as other disciplines.

Panels and sessions were offered where students and faculty presented papers and creative works designed to explore the productive potential for the exchange of ideas across disciplinary boundaries. Noteworthy papers on literary topics included Mark Gula's "The Aesthetic Choice: From Postmodernism to Performatism in Nonlinear Narratives," David Cain's *Water: The Natural/ Cultural Binary at Work in Heart of Darkness and The God of*

**Peaks** *continued*

*Small Things*," Heidi Schuler's "Fracture and Post-colonial Identity in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* and Linda Hogan's *Solar Storms*," Stephen Howell's "Post-colonial Bliss: the Phallic, the Feminine, and Narrative Performance in Tahar Ben Jelloun's *The Sand Child*," and Erica Jones' "From Transference to Transformation: the Role of the Physical in Angela Carter's *Love*." Other interesting papers on film were offered by Rachel Marsom, "Needling: *Silas Marner*," and Christopher Brown, "Breaking the Waves: The Films of Sofia Coppola as Anticipated by Virginia Woolf." Friday afternoon featured lively panel on the uses of "reflective" writing for self-discovery in the first year writing classroom, offered by Greg Glau, Nicole Ziegler, Rachel Koch, Holly Richards, Sarah La Rue, Erica Jones, and Jessica McGlaughlin. Another panel explored topics on building community in the university and secondary school classrooms by Kacie Beagen, Emilia Prosser, Jessica Radogno, and Jacki Belknap.

Another component of the conference included panels focused on new research in the field of applied

linguistics and English as a Secondary Language. Noteworthy papers were offered by Ali Yaylali, "*The Effect of Task Complexity on Learner Errors, Interactional Feedback, and Responses*," Kornwipa Poonpon, "*Investigating Salient Lexical and Grammatical Features in Oral Language to Inform Expansion of a Speaking Rating Scale*," and Jonathan Smart, "*Lexical Markers of Discourse Structure: A Pilot Study of Two Frameworks*," among others.

The conference also included several engaging presentations of original creative works, including panel presentations by students in Barbara Anderson's poetry workshop, readings by Lindsay Dragan, Rachel Marsom, Brian Malnes, Emma Canning, Hannah Parrel, Jody Jett, David Cain, and readings of non-fiction work by Darell Diedrich, Valerie Robin, and others. Students involved with the editing of the English Department's literary journal, *Thin Air*, offered a varied program of readings in original poetry, fiction, and non-fiction, to a standing-room only audience that packed the Liberal Arts auditorium.

Poetry, fiction, and prose works were presented by David Cain, MacKenzie

### **Peaks** *continued*

Kell, Hannah Pralle, Jody Jett, Brent Webster, Patty Petelin, Brian Malnes, Cody Roberts, Erica Jones, Mark Gula, Dennis Wall, and Nicole Walker. The program reflected a confluence of styles, tastes, and artistic philosophies.

The final event of the conference was offered by Katie Lee, river runner, writer, singer, and environmental activist, who spoke eloquently about the transformative power of her many river trips through Glen Canyon and other wild places in the Grand Canyon. She began her adventures on the river in the 1950s, before the Colorado River was dammed to create Lake Powell. The evening concluded with excerpts from her beautiful and moving video called, "A Love Song to Glen Canyon," a CD she created which included stunning early photographs of Glen Canyon and audio clips of original songs and lively renditions of canyon lore.

This event was sponsored by NAU English Department, College of Arts and Letters, and the Organization of Graduate Students of English, and the Graduate College.

The event was planned by the president of OGSE, Gavin Healey, a team of English graduate students, including Valerie Robin, David Cain, Heidi Schuler, Lindsay Dragan, Brent Webster, Sarah La Rue, and faculty and staff including Nancy Paxton, Okim Kang, Barbara Anderson, and Emily Davalos. The event drew more than 60 students and faculty from NAU, ASU, San Francisco State University, University of Nevada, and other universities in the region.

### **Undergraduate Symposium:**

#### **Viva La Lovelution**

**A Celebration of Research, Music, and the Power of One**



English Majors and minors organized a 2-hour research and acoustic benefit concert event for the College of Arts and Letters Undergraduate Symposium. The **Lovelution** *continued* theme: "The Power of One" showcased learning, public outreach, and a

celebration of applying studies. 6 students presented some of their research, while other students presented their work on posterboards along side NAU and Flagstaff community organizations. The benefit concert performers were both NAU students and Flagstaff community members.

Undergraduates Courtney Fisher, Tifarah O'Neil, and Jessica Clark, presenting, and Matt Babcock, performing, illustrated the "Power of One":

**Q:** Courtney, what was your presentation topic?

**Courtney A:** The Rhetoric Of Labor: Humanizing Sex Workers. Our society recognizes the rights of women, the rights of African Americans, and we are beginning to recognize the rights of homosexuals. Why do we still discriminate based on occupation? My aim is to ensure fair treatment by legal and cultural forces on local and international levels for all persons employed in the sex industry.

**Tifarah A:** My presentation will be on the way language can sometimes limit the ways in which we perceive a project and its benefits.

**Jessica A:** My project is about community activism. It doesn't take a grand gesture to improve upon the world; in fact, smaller things done by more individuals may even be a more effective way to change our world.

**Q:** Matt, how does your band's music reflect the theme of "The Power of One".

**Matt A:** It [Music] is a force so powerful that it can bring complete strangers feel as if they are one. The fact that one band or one musician can have an impact on another individual, a community, a country, a world, embodies the very spirit of "The Power of One."



### “Spoken Word” Documentary

The talents of creative writing students and Television Services merge in an NAU-produced *Spoken Word* documentary that premiered Wednesday, April 22, in the Cline Library Assembly Hall.

The film features poems written by Shannon Stack, Rodney Aly Grace, Channing Anderson, Randolph Brooks, Brian Malnes and Rollie Rathburn.

The documentary premiere was followed by a panel discussion led by producer and Creative Writing program coordinator Nicole Walker. Poem topics ranged from drug addiction to molestation.



### Writing for Children and Young Adults: A Creative Writing Workshop

On October 10th, 2008 award-winning young adult and children's authors Malin Alegria and Monica Brown gave a creative reading and performance in Liberal Arts 135 to a packed house that included many children from the community. Malin is the author *Estrella's Quinceañera* and Sofi Mendoza's *Guide to getting lost in Mexico*, both from Simon and Schuster and Monica is the author, most recently, of *Pelé, King of Soccer* from HarperCollins Rayo. Earlier in the day English Department students participated in a Creative Writing Workshop led by Malin and Monica on Writing for Children and Young Adults.

# Q & A



## Dr. Nancy Paxton: NAU's Newest Fulbright Scholar

The Fulbright Scholar Program is awarded to individuals to allow them the opportunity to study internationally with the goal of mutual understanding.

*"I am thrilled to be named as a Fulbright Scholar, since it allows me to complete research for a project that I have been working on for five years."*

Dr. Paxton, Professor of English, will be completing research for her book *Books Travel: Modernism and Literary Censorship in a Global Marketplace* in Townsville's Australian National University and Canberra, Australia for six months.

**Q:**

What will be your specific area of study?

**A:**

*There are a lots of really exciting opportunities to explore censorship in Australia right now. I am interested in the careers and writings of Radclyff Hall, D.H. Lawrence, and the New Zealand/Australian writer Jean Devanny. [This] will offer a comparative analysis of censorship practices in Great Britain, the United States, New Zealand, and Australian in the first half of the twentieth century and will consider the psychological and creative responses of these writers to governmental bans on their books.*

**Q:** Outside of researching, what will you be doing in Australia?

**A:** *"I have been invited to present at least six papers and guest lectures at Australian National University, James Cook University in Townsville and Cairns, and at the University of Queensland. I will also offer teaching workshops on how literary texts can be used to explore censorship practices in the United States and other countries."*

**Q:** How will you use this new knowledge and perspective in the classroom and your own work?

**A:** *"I'd like to give workshops on teaching banned literature and talk to Australian scholars and teachers about intellectual freedom and social issues. And finish my own book"*

**Q:** Anything else you'd like to add?

**A:** *"I should thank Harvey Charles at the Center of International Education for helping me put everything together."*

send us your UPDATES

# Alumni Questionnaire

We enjoy hearing your good news.

Keep us updated by sending an e-mail to [Kristen.Harris@nau.edu](mailto:Kristen.Harris@nau.edu) with "Alumni Newsletter Update" noted in the subject line, or send us a letter the old-fashioned way: Department of English, PO Box 6032, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-6032.

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E-mail/Website:

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permission to print e-mail yes/no

Current information update (jobs, publications, milestones, and other information to share)

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