



English News

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The End of an Era: Karen Sturm Retires

By Judy Blunt

Karen Sturm retires this spring, after acting as our department's voice and smile for 24 years. When she began in the autumn of 1987, the English department was a very different place, she recalls. The faculty shared one computer, which was housed in a corner of LA 210, and among her duties those first years was speeding along at her typewriter as Professors Ganz and Kittredge verbally dictated student recommendation letters. Parts of her first role at UM are currently delegated to the work study students, the academic advisor and the composition assistants—but one element has been ongoing, and that's her work with the English graduate programs application process. The change in that job can be measured in numbers—from just 100 applicants in 1988 to the current 300-400 that she handles. Her plans for retirement include drinking hot chocolate and



reading in bed until 10 a.m.—but just for a short while. She looks forward to resuming work with the elderly, and playing piano more often in her family's musical group, which performs for many of the area nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Karen credits the department as being a great place to work—challenges and all: “My first year here I knew I'd never leave this job for any other,” she says. “Who leaves a fun job?” As we all know, her work and dedication have helped make our department what it is. Best wishes, Karen!

“The early mist had vanished and the fields lay like a silver shield under the sun. It was one of the days when the glitter of winter shines through a pale haze of spring.”

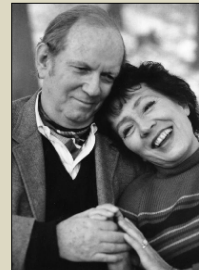
*Edith Wharton,
Ethan Frome*

Patricia Goedicke and Leonard Robinson's Legacy *By Judy Blunt*

Mansfield Library Archives and Special Collections has opened the Patricia Goedicke and Leonard Wallace Robinson Papers for research. The collection is held on the fourth floor of the library, but accessing the guide to the collection online allows some distance access as well--anyone with a computer can browse a number of the documents, open them as PDFs and read them on-line.

Patricia Goedicke was a poet of international renown, and a professor of creative writing at the University of Montana from 1981 until her retirement in 2003. Her last book of poems, *As the Earth Begins to End*, was recognized as one of the top 10 poetry books of 2000 by the American Library Association. During the '50s, Patricia studied with the likes of W.H. Auden and Robert Frost, and their letters and editing and Robert Frost, and their letters and editing comments regarding her early work provide a fascinating part of this collection. (Story continued on page X)

A Good Story (or Poem) Is Hard to Write: Works by Patricia Goedicke and Leonard Wallace Robinson



The Exhibit

Featuring materials from the Patricia Goedicke and Leonard Wallace Robinson Papers, this exhibit traces the development of three works:

The Man Who Loved Beauty, a novel by Leonard Robinson
Invisible Horses, a book of poems by Patricia Goedicke
"Third Rail," a poem by Patricia Goedicke

Where

4th Floor (1 floor up) in the Theta Rho Room
Exhibit runs from October 4, 2010-March 1, 2011

The People

Patricia Goedicke and Leonard Wallace Robinson played an important part in the literary and University communities in Missoula. Goedicke, who taught Creative Writing at The University of Montana from 1981-2003, authored 13 books of poetry including *The Tongues We Speak*, which was a New York Times Book Review notable book for 1990 and *As Earth Begins to End*, which was amongst Booklist's Top Ten Books of the Year for 2001. Robinson authored 2 novels and 2 books of poetry and was an instructor of Creative Writing at The University of Montana. Robinson also published several articles and short stories for *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *Harper's*.

For more information about the exhibit scan the QR codes below with the barcode reader on your mobile device.



Poster for the Goedicke/Robinson Exhibit

Indian Education for All at the Rotunda

By Heather Bruce

The Montana State Office of Public Instruction hosted an Indian Education for All (IEFA) event January 28, 2011 in the Montana State Capitol Rotunda to highlight a variety of materials and projects developed to support the implementation of IEFA. The Indian Education Division invited Montana Writing Project (MWP) to showcase for legislators and the public two projects that demonstrate MWP's "excellent IEFA work." (Montana Writing Project is the English Department's professional development organization dedicated to improving the teaching of writing grades preschool-20.) MWP Director and English Department Professor



Heather Bruce and Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau promote Indian Education for All at the Montana Capital.

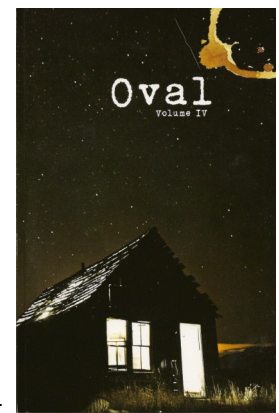
Heather E. Bruce showcased several MWP professional development opportunities available to Montana teachers that focus on development of best practices for literacy teaching and implementation of Indian Education for All. **Casey Olsen**

News from The Oval

By Robert Stubblefield, faculty advisor for The Oval

The Oval recently updated its website, and thanks to *Oval* staff member Shannon Janssen, incorporated a blog that keeps students and supporters updated on upcoming *Oval* and literary events on campus and around town. The *Oval* continues to connect with the Missoula community.

Recent *Oval* activities include collaboration with Willard School on writing workshops and Prose and Poem and Poetry Corner readings, the Poetry Slam (in cooperation with Aerie Big Sky), Mark Tredinnick reading at Fact and Fiction, Charles "Chip" McGrath reading/lecture at Mansfield Library, and the *Oval* launch in mid-April. Check out other *Oval* news at <http://www.umt.edu/theoval/>



Faculty Activity: Presentations, Publications, Accolades

Judy Blunt gave the Keynote Address at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko this winter and received a standing ovation.

Kate Ryan's article, "Theorizing Feminist Pragmatic Rhetoric as a Communicative Art for the Composition Practicum," (co-authored with Tarez Samra Graban) was awarded the Kathleen Ethel Welch Outstanding Article Award by the Coalition of Women Scholars in the History of Rhetoric.

Kevin Canty's book, *Everything*, was one of four honor books chosen by the 2010 Montana Book Award Committee. The Montana Book Award was founded by the Friends of the Missoula Public Library in 2001 and winners are selected by a committee of individuals representing areas throughout Montana.



English Teaching folks were busy this year. Professor **Heather Bruce**, Visiting Asst. Professor **Donna Miller**, MA(T) alum **Eliot Jacobs**, and Montana Writing Project staff member **Merrilyne Lundahl** all contributed

articles to the January issue of *English Journal*, a publication of the National Council of Teachers of English. Their articles were: "Green(ing) English: Voices in the Howling Wilderness?" (**Bruce**); "Sustainability and the Recycling of Words." (**Miller**, co-authored with Alleen Pace Nilsen); "Teaching Where We Are: Place-Based Language Arts" (**Lundahl**), and "Re(Place) Your Typical Writing Assignment: An Argument for Place-Based Writing" (**Elliot**). **Heather Bruce** also presented her paper, "Indigenous Literacies Are for Everybody" at the next Conference on College Composition and Communication convention, April 6-9, 2011, in Atlanta, Georgia.



Nancy Cook presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Literature Association in San Francisco, May 2010, titled: "Western Spaces and/as History: Narrating the King Ranch of Texas." Last spring, Cook spoke at the 100th Anniversary of Glacier National Park Symposium in Kalispell. Her talk was titled "Working in a Man's World: Women in Glacier Park." **Cook** was also invited, as a guest of the U.S. Embassy, to speak at Universidad de Deusto in Bilbao, Spain on "Race, Region,

The Case of Long Lance." She was also the Plenary Speaker at the International Conference on the American Literary West: Beyond the Myth, which met in Spain at the Universidad del Pais Vasco (The University of the Basque Country). Her address was titled, "McMansions and Doublewides: Social Class and the Rural West."



The University of the Basque Country

Montana Authors Project is Launched *by Lisa Simon*

The Missoula Public Library has debuted the Montana Authors Project, a series of web-based interactive maps showcasing some of the state's literary treasures. The site currently includes maps for two works by UM faculty — Debra Magpie Earling's *Perma Red* and Judy Blunt's *Breaking Clean*. Also featured are Richard Hugo's *Selected Poems*, D'Arcy McNickle's *The Surrounded*, and Norman Maclean's *A River Runs Through It*. For each of these books the website presents a topographical map with several clickable points corresponding to key scenes from the narrative (or, in the case of Hugo's book, to specific poems). Clicking on one of these points pops up a short excerpt from the book and a relevant image. Each map also

features an author bio and bibliography.

Librarian Cara Cadena, who served as content Manager on the project, collaborated directly with Judy Blunt on the map for *Breaking Clean*. Blunt provided family photos to accompany each locale. "Working with Judy was great," says Cadena. "I really admire her memoir and her writing, so to sit with her and look through her photos, talking about how those images reflect and capture scenes from the book, was really interesting."

The Authors Project will be available soon on the library website: [http://](http://www.missoulapubliclibrary.org/)

www.missoulapubliclibrary.org/

Welcome Tom Russell *by Judy Blunt*

In the fall, Thomas Russell, joined the creative writing program as a professor of fiction. His appointment follows a 26-year career with in the University of Memphis, where he founded the MFA program and directed it for more than 20 years. He was awarded a Dunavant professorship, taught undergraduate and graduate fiction workshops, as well as courses in narrative forms, contemporary fiction, and American and British literature. He has a Ph.D. from The University of Kansas, and has been awarded NEA and Carnegie Foundation fellowships. His work has received two Pushcart nominations, a Pushcart Prize, a PEN Syndicated Fiction Award, and several first prize magazine awards. Tom also served as the editor of *River City*, University of Memphis' literary magazine. He's currently working on a novel set in an affluent community on the eve of Ronald Reagan's election. Welcome, Tom!



Patricia Goedicke and Leonard Robinson's Legacy *Cont. from p. 2*

Patricia's husband, Leonard Wallace Robinson, enjoyed a long career as an editor as well as a writer. Hired initially as a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, he went on to serve as fiction editor for both *Esquire* and *Collier's*, and executive editor at Rinehart Publishing. He was an award winning short story writer and novelist, with a career that spanned decades. Both were prolific writers, and their communications, manuscripts and photographs document not only their work and their lives, but a golden era in American letters. It's a tremendous addition to our university's research collections, and a fabulous tribute to our colleagues, Leonard and Patricia.



Graduate Students Take their Show on the Road

by *Dustin Pace*

What do you get when you take six literature graduate students, put them in two cars, and send them on a six-hour journey to present at a conference? Now before you scream “Nerdy!” and move on to a more enticing article, let me answer. You get an amusing, if unusual, road trip filled with valuable experiences and maybe, just maybe... a little bit of fun!

Such was the case when **Liz Boenheim, Nick Myers, Rachael Caldwell, Josh Harteis, Lise Lalonde,** and I ventured to The Potato State to present at the Intermountain Graduate Conference in Pocatello, Idaho on February 5th. After sneaking in some last minute revisions on the drive and in the hotel rooms, we found our way to Idaho State in time for the first panel and the much anticipated presentation on “Tolkien’s Magic Swords: Dwarvish or Elvish? Why it Matters,” though I can’t say I’m much the wiser. We spent the rest of the day shuffling between rooms taking in and making presentations, trying vehemently to cram our papers into the fifteen minute timeslots. A relatively small conference, it was a great way to get some feedback and presentation experience, and perhaps just a little heartburn from the “simple, fresh, American dining” of Ruby Tuesday.



Presenters and Presentations, left to right: Dustin Pace – “Beyond the Border: Listening on the Lower Frequencies of Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*”; Nicholas Myers – “Violence and the Civic Sphere: Narrative Production in the Wake of Harper’s Ferry”; Elizabeth Boenheim – “Finding Women in the West: Space and Place in Mary Clearman Blew’s *All But the Waltz* and Judy Blunt’s *Breaking Clean*”; Lise Lalonde – “Elizabeth Bishop’s Photographic Poetics”; Joshua Harteis – “The Negative Sublime: Politicized Aesthetics in Edward Burtynsky’s *Manufactured Landscapes* and Don DeLillo’s *White Noise*”; Rachael Caldwell – “Tim O’Brien at Play – The Dark Side of Negative Narrative Space in *The Things They Carried*”

Congratulations in Order

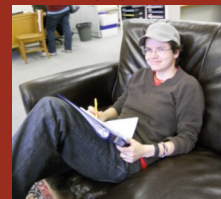
Visiting Asst. Prof. Donna Miller successfully defended her dissertation, “Talking with Our Fingertips: A Study of Blogging about Young Adult Literature,” earning her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction by the University of Arizona.

MFA Graduate Student, Kerry Banazek, has been accepted into a PhD program at the University of Pittsburgh where she’ll be studying Composition and Rhetoric.

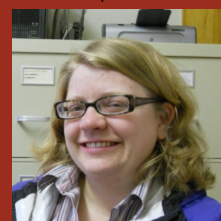
Merrilynne Lundahl, who graduated from UM in 2009 with an MS in Environmental Writing and currently serves as the Admin. Assoc. for Montana Writing Project, will be going to University of Nevada, Reno to enter the PhD program, also in Composition and Rhetoric.



Donna Miller



Kerry Banazek



Merrilynne Lundahl

Student Accomplishments

Literature Graduate Students **Liz Boeheim, Adrianna Ely, Josh Harteis, Lise Lalonde, Mark Matthews, Nick Myers, Dustin Pace, Aaron Schneeberger** all presented papers at the tenth annual Graduate Student and Faculty Research Conference last month. **Nick Myers** ("Violence in Rhetoric: Narrative Production in the Wake of Harper's Ferry") and **Adrianna Ely** ("Little Red Meets the Beast: Disrupting the Human/Animal Binary through Interspecies Erotics in Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber*") received awards (and \$100 each!) for their presentations.

Robby Nadler (second year MFA) was awarded a \$47,000, three-year writer's fellowship from the University of Louisiana. His essay "Million-Dollar Wound" was chosen out of 220 entries as a finalist by CNF in their AWP-wide MFA program-off.

Carrie Laben's (first year MFA) story "And Neither Have I Wings to Fly" has been published in the anthology *Beware the Night*, Prime Books.

Mackenzie Cole (first year MFA) has two poems, "In the Prairie Grass" and "You Can Live," forthcoming in an anthology entitled *Many Windows*, Magnapoets anthology series 4.

Rebecca Margolis (second year MFA) won the Prism Review fiction contest with her story "Weatherization."

Melissa Leavitt (second year MFA) was a finalist in the American Literary Review's creative nonfiction contest with her essay "Lost and Found."

Kate Rutledge Jaffe (second year MFA) was a finalist for Black Warrior Review's Sixth-Ever Fiction Contest.

Molly Laich (second year MFA) is blogging for [Thumbnail](#).

Jenny White (second year MFA) has a short story in the current issue of *Terrain* and was named one of four finalists for the 2011 Obsidian Prize in Fiction by *High Desert Journal*.

Jonathon Volk (first year MFA) was a top-ten finalist for the Summer Literary Seminars 2011 Contest and was offered a scholarship to attend one of the conferences in Kenya, Lithuania, or Montreal.

Emma Andrus, an English Department work study student, was one of forty-five University of Montana students recognized at an honorary reception by Career Services and President Royce Engstrom for her outstanding service to the University community during the 2010-2011 academic year. Nominated by Karin Schalm, Emma Andrus was selected for her excellent reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism, uniqueness of contribution and service to the campus community.

Alumni News

Emily Danforth (MFA '06) has a novel coming out in winter 2012. *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* is forthcoming from Balzer & Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins.

Steven Hawley's (MA '06) book, *Recovering a Lost River: Removing Dams, Rewilding Salmon, Revitalizing Communities*, has been published by Beacon Press.

Melissa Kwasny (MFA '99) has a new collection of prose poems, *The Nine Senses*, recently released by Milkweed Editions.

Joshua Corey (MFA '99) just put out his third book of poems, *Severance Songs*, with Tupelo Press.

Sarah Harlan Haughey (BA '0X) completed her PhD at Cornell this year and has accepted a tenure track position at the University of Maine.

Scott Jones (MFA '09) has been accepted into the PHD program at Edinburgh, Scotland.

John Meyers (MFA '10) and **Rob Schlegel** (MFA '04) were both finalist for Omnidawn's Book Prize and are featured on the Omnidawn website:

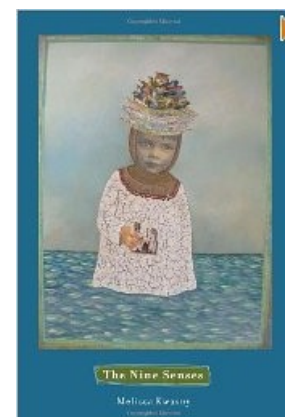
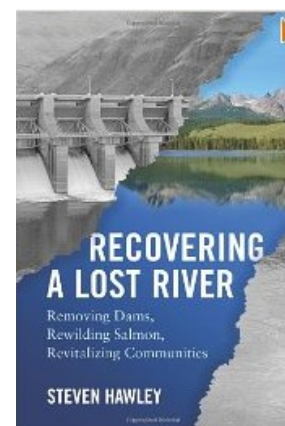
<http://omnidawn.wordpress.com/>

Peter Brown (BA '81) won the 2010 Katherine Anne Porter Prize in short fiction with "A Bright Soothing Noise."

Shannon Hale (MFA 2000) was featured on Garrison Keillor's Writer's Almanac for Jan. 26.

Aaron Shulman (MFA 2009) recently traveled to Guatemala on a Fulbright to research violence against women for his upcoming novel. An article he wrote, "The Rise of Femicide," has been published in *The New Republic*.

Paul Zarzyski (MFA '76) was quoted in *The New York Times* in defense of cowboy poetry: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/11/us/politics/11cowboy.html>



This Year's Scholarship Recipients

Undergraduate Scholarships

Helen J. Olson Scholarship, awarded to **Jessica Johnston** and **Ella Pfalzgraff**

Rose Southworth Megee Scholarship, awarded to **Kelsey Fanning**

Maureen Mansfield Scholarship, awarded to **Claire Mikeson**

Freeman Scholarship, awarded to **Joshua Wagner**

Opus Scholarship, awarded to **Bryanny Froehlich**

James P. Welch Jr. Memorial Award recipient: **Jake Arrowtop**



Graduate Scholarships and Awards

Merriam-Frontier Award recipient: **Jeffrey Whitney**

Greta Wrolstad Travel Award recipient: **Hannah Soukup**

Nettie Weber Award recipient: **Jennifer White**

Goedicke/Robinson Scholarship awarded to **Anthony Ruzicka** and **Clint Garner Jr.**

O'Leary/Cardinal Scholarship awarded to **Carrie Laben**

A.B. Guthrie Memorial Scholarship awarded to **Joshua Fomon**

Alice Passano Hancock Davidson awarded to **James Andrew Gray**

Margaret Beebe Memorial Scholarship awarded to **Shawn Haggerty**

Bertha Morton Fellowship awarded to **Jayne Feary**, **Kate Rutledge Jaffe** and **Laura Scott**

Your Contributions at Work

Contributions from English alumni and friends fund a variety of department initiatives, programs and student scholarships. If you would like to support the English Department, please send check or money order to The University of Montana Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807-7159, with a note in the memo line designating it for the English Department. Contributions are also accepted online at: <http://www.umt.edu/UMf/>. For more information about making a gift (with no obligation to do so), please contact Kelley Willett of the UM Foundation at Kelley.Willett@mso.umt.edu or (800) 443.2593, (406) 243.2646.

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