

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, & OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Piper Abernathy has three poems forthcoming in *Word Riot*.

The following graduate students read at the Working Words Graduate Reading Series at the Plaza Library on September 12: **Piper Abernathy, Lewis DeJong, Scott Ditzler, Philip Estes, Zachary Gall, Alyse Hotz, Joni Lee, and Christo Whelan.**

Hadara Bar-Nadav published the poems "Abandoned Dome," "The Art of Pleasure," "Fields, Ribbons, Folds: Somatic Landscapes for Zaha Hadid," "Skinless Love," and "Unite d' Habitation" in *Prairie Schooner* 82.2. Her poems "Annelida, My Love and Yours," "Compose an Evening Sky," "Prayer Is the Little Implement," and "Show Me Yours" appear in *Prairie Schooner* 82.3. The poem "Let Me Hold the Kaleidoscope" appears in *The Journal* 32.1. Her review of Mary Jo Bang's Elegy appears in the current issue of *New Letters*.

John Barton was awarded a Faculty Research Grant to support research on his book, *Literary Executions: Capital Punishment and American Culture, 1820-1925*.

Virginia Blanton published "Presenting the Sister Saints of Ely, or Using Kinship to Increase a Monastery's Status as a Cult Center" in *Literature Compass* 5, which is available online. She presented her papers "...the quene in Amysbery, a nunne in whyght clothyys and blak...": Guenevere's Asceticism and Penance in Malory's *Le Morte Darthur* in July in Rennes, France during the International Arthurian Society 22nd International Congress and "Native Saints in the 'E' Branch of the South English Legendary" in May at Western Michigan University during the 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies. Her book, *Signs of Devotion: The Cult of St. Æthelthryth in Medieval England*, was awarded the 2008 Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship Prize for Best First Book.

Michelle Boisseau had poems reprinted in the anthology and calendar *Alhambra Poetry 2008* (Belgium); *The Compact Bedford Introduction to Literature* (8th ed.); *Poetry: An Introduction* (Bedford); and *French Connections: A Gathering of Franco-American Poetry* (Louisiana Literature Press). Her long poem "Across the Borderlands, the Wind," published in *New Letters*, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by an anonymous Pushcart editor. Her poems are forthcoming in *Ploughshares*, *The Southern Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Sou'wester*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Upstreet*, and *Prairie Schooner*. Her book, *A Sunday in God Years*, will be published in early 2009 (University of Arkansas Press).

Joan Dean presented her research in Toronto, Canada and Porto, Portugal. She presented her paper, "Rewriting the Past in the Irish Free State: Historical Pageantry in the 1920s" in May at the Canadian Association for Irish Studies meeting. She spoke on two recent dramatic adaptations of the Irish national epic in a paper entitled, "The Theatrical Uses of The Tain: Macnas (1992) and Fabulous Beast (2005)" in July at the International Associate for the Study of Irish Literatures.

The Barger Award in Fiction resulted in a tie and was split between **Lewis DeJong** (\$500) and **Scott Ditzler** (\$500).

Steve Dilks' critical biography, *Samuel Beckett in the Literary Marketplace: His Life as a Professional Writer*, will be published in Spring 2009 (Syracuse University Press).

Philip Estes has two poems in recent issues of *Origami Condom*, and has poems forthcoming in *Lamination Colony*, *The Portland Review*, and *This Zine Will Change Your Life*.

Laurie Ellinghausen published an essay, "Shakespeare and Economic Life," in the Shakespeare Theatre Company's *Guide to the Season's Plays, 2008-9*. She also published an article, "'Shame and eternal shame': The Dynamics of Historical Trauma in Shakespeare's First Tetralogy," in the Fall 2008 issue of *Exemplaria: A Journal of Theory in Medieval and Renaissance Studies*.

Christie Hodgen published two short stories, "Elegy for Mike Beaudry" and "Tom & Jerry," in the current issues of *The Southern Review* and *Ploughshares*.

The Angela Cooke Award was awarded to **Brooke Kuykendall**. She also won the Jo Anna Dale Scholarship.

The Ann Bernard Scholarship was awarded to **Jeff Pollard**.

Maryfrances Wagner will read from her new book, *Light Subtracts Itself*, on September 26 at The Writer's Place.

ALUMNI NEWS

Rita Arens published *Sleep Is for the Weak* in September (Chicago Review Press). She will read from the book, which is an anthology of entries from her nationally-known mommyblog, *SurrenderDorothy*, at the Plaza Library for the October 17 Working Words event.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Barth's story published in *New Letters*, "Progressive Dinner" (winter 2007), has been selected for inclusion in *Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses* (2009). His fiction has won the National Book Award, the PEN/Malamud Award for Short Fiction, and the Lannan Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award. "Progressive Dinner" is part of a story-series in progress about life in a fictional gated community on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

DEPARTMENTAL CALENDAR

Rita Arens will read from *Sleep Is for the Weak* at the Plaza Library on October 17 as part of the Working Words Series.

Hadara Bar-Nadav and **Christie Hodgen** will read on October 10 at The Writers Place as part of the Riverfront Reading Series.

Maryfrances Wagner will read from her new book, *Light Subtracts Itself*, on September 26 at The Writer's Place.

Please visit the English department website for a full calendar of events.