

Footnotes

2014 - 2015

New Kids on the Block:

Ian MacDonald and Kate Polak Granted Tenure Track Positions



The English department warmly welcomes Drs. Ian MacDonald and Kate Polak MacDonald, its newest tenure-track faculty members. Both professors cover the spectrum of global Anglophone literature, and their backgrounds are as interesting as their classes, from Dr. MacDonald's "It's the End of the World As We Know It: What the Language of the Apocalypse Reveals" to Dr. Polak's "Lost in the Funhouse Mirror: Negotiating Identity in Anglophone Women's Writing."

Kate received her Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature at the University of Cincinnati, where she focused on depictions of violence and empathy. Ian received his Ph.D. in

African Literature and Postcolonial Theory at Columbia University, focusing additionally on science fiction, fantasy, and utopian literatures. Impressively, both Kate and Ian hold MFAs in Creative Writing, and Ian has an M.A. in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

Having spent much of her education at larger schools, Kate was especially interested in working closely with students, really "digging in," at a small, liberal arts school. Both made their way home to Wittenberg, where they devote an enormous amount of time, energy, and love to their students, the English department, and the campus community.

Both Kate and Ian are ridiculously busy: in between advising students, grading assignments, instructing multiple classes, and continually generating fascinating new material, they never hesitate to stop and chat with an eager student, no matter if the conversation is about cats, careers, or colonialism.

As a dynamic duo, the creative juices don't flow—they gush: Kate recently sent off her manuscript and is already researching her next book, while also tinkering with some creative non-fiction, dabbling in poetry, and fiddling with an autobiographical graphic narrative. Ian is currently putting the finishing touches on his latest manuscript, which he hopes to send off in the coming summer; in the meantime, he was recently published in an academic journal alongside the heavy hitters in the field of postcolonial literature and theory.

In her precious free time, Kate enjoys belly dancing and hiking around Yellow Springs. Ian plays bass and harmonica, and sings in multiple bands that play around the Urbana, Yellow Springs, and Springfield areas.

The English department is lucky to call these two exceptionally talented and caring educators our own. As poet and professor Mark Van Doren notes, "The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery," which both Kate and Ian do extremely well.

A Creative Opportunity:

The Kent and Mimi Dixon Professorship

Heather Christle is coming in the Spring of 2016 to teach poetry.

Christle earned her BA from Tufts University and an MFA from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She is the author of *The Difficult Farm* (2009); *The Trees The Trees* (2011), which won the Believer Poetry Award; and *What Is Amazing* (2012), which Christle describes as "[beginning] somewhat exuberantly[. It] moves through domesticity and desire, and ends up with something like acceptance of the world as it is. It is occasionally very funny."

A former creative writing fellow in poetry at Emory University, Christle has taught at Emory, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and Sarah Lawrence. She is the Web editor of *jubilat* magazine and a frequent writer-in-residence at the Juniper Summer Writing Institute, but she'll be joining the Wittenberg faculty this spring to teach an Intro to Creative Writing course and our Advanced Topics in Poetry.



Colloquia:

& Guest Speakers (F14 - S15)



Fall 2014

- Sep. 29** Author **Joyce Carol Oats** spoke on writing and education
- Oct. 9** Dixon Professor **R. Clifton Spargo** spoke on his book *Beautiful Fools*
- Nov. 3** **A.D. Carson** spoke on his poetry in *Cold*, exploring history, inequality, and education brought up by rappers and hip-hop artists.
- Nov. 5** **R. Clifton Spargo** spoke on his work with The Voices and Faces Project and how writing can help survivors of violence bring their testimonies to the attention of the public.
- Nov. 20** The List Colloquium with Dr. McClelland, Dr. Askeland, and Dr. Inboden.
- Dec. 4** What Can You Do With an English Major? Discussion with alumni **Tom Haushalter** and **Laurie Nott**

Spring 2015

- Jan. 22** A conversation on post-college careers with alumna **Brandy Schillace**
- Feb. 11** Read-A-Thon with a focus on the literature of war.
- Feb. 12** **Cindy Selfe** and **Scott Lloyd DeWitt** spoke on digital media's influence on communication in the 21st century.
- Mar. 3** National poet and alumnus **A. Van Jordan** came to speak about his poetry.
- Mar. 19** Comic book artist **Scott McCloud** spoke on the writing process
- Mar. 26** Literary Pub Fest and departmental awards
- Apr. 16** Matchbook Poetry readings
- Apr. 24** Senior Symposium

Faculty Notes:

Cynthia Richards (*Department Chair and Professor of Eighteenth Century Literature & Women Writers*)

Dr. Richards is finishing out the last year of her term as the department chair swimmingly, winning the Woman of the Year award for the second year running.

Lori Askland (*Professor of African American Literature and American Women's Literature*)

Dr. Askland will be returning from sabbatical and stepping up as department chair in the Fall of 2015.

Bob Davis (*Professor of American Literature*)

Dr. Davis was the keynote speaker at a conference on the American Civil War at the University of Liverpool (UK) and his essay on Whitman and Emmanuel Levinas, "Whitman and the Face of the Other," will be published in *Life and Limb: the Medical History of the Civil War*.

Scot Hinson (*Professor of American Literature and Literature and Film*)

Dr. Hinson spent his spring semester on sabbatical studying Christopher Nolan's *Memento*, Neo-Noir, and Identity.

Robin Inboden (*Professor of Victorian Literature*)

Dr. Inboden was awarded the highest honor presented to a teacher at Wittenberg, the Distinguished Teaching Award, at the Honors Convocation this year.

Rick Incorvati (*Professor of Romantic Literature*)

Dr. Incorvati hosted two workshops this spring at Wright State University on stereotype threat (i.e. the added burden on students based on their gender, race, social class, or other markers). He also continues to work with Equality Springfield which will bring the first Gay Pride Celebration to Springfield's City Hall Plaza on June 13th. Incorvati was also awarded the Faculty Development Board Collegium Award for his outstanding teaching.

Ian MacDonald (*Professor of African Literature and Post Colonial Theory*)

Dr. MacDonald earned a tenure-track position with Wittenberg this year. We're looking forward to many more years of Post-Colonial theory and Science-Fiction and Fantasy literature with him.

Michael McClelland (*Professor of Creative Writing, Journalism, and American Literature*)

Dr. McClelland published his third novel this year. *Turtle Up!*, the sequel to Mac's critically acclaimed first novel *Oyster Blues*, is set at a mythic Florida college that bears a remarkable resemblance to Wittenberg. Mac describes *Turtle Up!* as a comic romance/mystery, built around a powerful pro-environmental message. It's available via Kindle. The film option for *Oyster Blues* was renewed for a third year, meaning that producer Jon Judelson's of Batterie Productions is still hunting financial backing for the planned movie.

Mike Mattison (*Professor of Advanced Rhetoric and Grammar*)

Dr. Mattison and student **Meaghan Summers** '17 presented at the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing in Orlando for the Writing Center this year.

Kate Polak (*Professor of Apocalyptic, Psychoanalytical Literature, and Poetry*)

Dr. Polak has earned a tenure-track position with Wittenberg, presented at the Modern Languages Conference in Vancouver, and won Wittenberg's Unsung Hero Award. She also has several pieces coming out including "My Children Will Remember All the Things I Tried to Forget: New Approaches to Intergenerational Trauma." and "Hobby Lobby and the Narcissistic Economy of 'Belief'."

Jody Rambo (*Professor of Poetry and Creative Writing*)

Professor Rambo has rounded out her year with another fabulous Matchbook Poetry event, making a new record of 42 matchbooks given out. She will be taking time off teaching next year to enjoy time with her family.

Student Notes:

AWARDS AND HONORS

Alyssa Hughes ('15) earned the Community Service Champion award, which recognizes an outstanding student's commitment service, the quality of the service given, and the impact on the city of Springfield and the greater Clark County area.

Journalism minor **Kayla Villegas** ('16) was given the honor of Alma Mater for the class of 2016.

Creative Writing minor **Chebrya Jeffrey** ('16) was given the Broadwell Chinn award. This honor is named for the first African American student at Wittenberg in the 1870s, and is awarded to the student with highest grade point average of the African American juniors.

TO COMMENCEMENT AND BEYOND

Jeff Hurley was accepted to Chatham University's graduate program, and has also applied to work as a copywriter for Nintendo.

Julie Cascino will be headed to law school at the College of William and Mary in the fall.

Lauren Swanson is an Editorial Intern at *Cleveland Magazine*.

Cameron Mackintosh is working in Alaska as a digital producer and TV reporter.

Kayla Murphy is headed to Kent State University to obtain a Master of Library and Information Sciences (MLIS) in the fall.

Literary Awards: & Department Honors

OSTROM EXPOSITORY AWARDS:

Junior Prize: Carl Burgason

Senior Prize: Trevor Brown

CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS:

Poetry: Julie Cascino '15

Fiction: Hannah Hunt '16

Non-Fiction Prose: Hannah Hunt '16

Screenwriting: Alina Simon '18

Crawl Creativity: Julie Cascino '15

EXCELLENCE IN LITERARY STUDIES:

Julie Cascino '15

Savannah Fox '15

Alicen Tisch '15

KOPPENHAVER AWARDS:

Trevor Brown '15

Sean McCollough '15

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Got News?

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Credits:

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Thanks to the faculty, staff, students, and alumni for their contributions. © 2015