

# Newsletter

## English and foreign languages

September 2009



It's been a long summer and a lot has happened since our last *Newsletter* in April:

First of all, a **BIG WELCOME** to our new graduate assistants: Nancy Correro, Jason Hibbits, Gus LaFosse, Brittany Moore, Kevin Thomason, and Scott Thomason.

In other news:

**Jacob Blevins**, our new Department Head since August 1, was the recipient of the 2009-10 \$5000 Louisiana Division of the Arts Artist's Fellowship for poetry. Jacob joins previous alums like Genaro Smith, Carrie Green, Lisa Graley, and Hillary Joubert as a recipient. Jacob was also commissioned for, and is under contract, to edit *The Complete Works of Thomas Traherne*, Volume 9. This will be published by Boydell and Brewer in 2016. Also, Blevins's journal *INTERTEXTS* will now be a part of Project Muse, the electronic journal database at Johns Hopkins University.

**Joe Cash**, our former Department Head of twenty-three years, will be chairing the Folklore Section at the Annual Conference of the SCMLA, to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, October 29-31, 2009. He has also been nominated for membership on the Executive Committee of the SCMLA. The results of the election will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Joe is the first professor from McNeese

ever to be nominated for the SCMLA Executive Committee. The voting ballots have been sent out to the entire SCMLA membership.

**Angelina Oberdan** spent ten days in New York City working with Daniela Gioseffi, poet and novelist, on a collection of Gioseffi's prose she is editing. Oberdan and Gioseffi were also interviewed by Fred Gardaphé during his webcast, "Italian Signs, American Streets," about the differences in the way Gioseffi's generation and the next generation of Italian American women writers feel about being writers and publishing in the mainstream. It can be viewed at <http://www.dolcechannel.com/pages/liveradio.ph/>.

On September 5, **Stella Nesanovich** gave a presentation on poetry to the Bayou Writers Group meeting in Lake Charles. On September 11, Stella read from her poetry at the Write to Excellence Center on the McNeese State University campus. Many of us enjoyed her lively performance.

**Amy Fleury** is taking a one semester sabbatical after being awarded the Amy Clampitt Residency in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Newcomer to the McNeese MFA program in fiction, **Jason Hibbitts**, has an article on hiking forthcoming in the September/October issue of *A.T. Journeys Magazine*. The article was written after he hiked the Appalachian Trail as an independent study project.

**Elizabeth Genovise** has had a story, "Burl Wood" (the third from her thesis), accepted by *Yemassee*.

**Shonell Bacon** was awarded a fellowship to help her pursue her PhD at Texas Tech.

**Michael G. Rather, Jr.**, had an article published on-line in *CLCWeb* through Purdue University. His essay "About the Political Dimensions of the Formation of the King

James Bible,” *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 11.2 (June, 2009), can be accessed via <http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol11/iss2/>.

**Chris Lowe’s** story "Those Like Us" will be printed in the Spring 2010 issue of *Third Coast*.

**Bärbel Czennia** had two book reviews on eighteenth-century studies published in *ECCB: The Eighteenth-Century Current Bibliography* (vol. 30 for 2004; published by AMS Press, New York, 2009). She has also edited the “British Literature” section in this latest volume of *ECCB*.

**J. Bruce Fuller's** poem "The Dirty Side" will be published in the Fall 2009 issue of *JMWW: A Quarterly Journal of Writing*. <http://www.jmww.150m.com>.

**Daniel Westover’s** PhD thesis acts as the basis for his first book, *The Prosodies of R. S. Thomas* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2010). The book will be distributed in America by the University of Chicago Press.

**Adam Johnson’s** story “Geronimo” (originally published in *Tin House*) has been selected for inclusion in *Best American Short Stories 2009*.

After just one year at Labatte Community College in Kansas, **Josh Canipe** has been named the Department Head.

In addition to having his story “Carter’s Orchard” appear in *Gulf Stream*, **Matt Hobson** begins his new job at Loyola University in Baltimore. Matt recently finished his PhD at Florida State.

**Scott Savoie** is teaching English at YES Preparatory School in Houston.

**Steven Brown** begins his work this semester on his PhD at the University of Rhode Island.

## SPECIAL MESSAGE

**Paula C. Campbell** (Dual Enrollment English—Iowa High School) sends the following message to us: “Seventeen seniors of Iowa High School and four from Bell City High School meet each day at the Iowa High School campus to enjoy the challenge of taking English 101 along with their regular British Literature. Dual Enrollment English is being offered at Iowa this school year as a pilot program in Calcasieu Parish; the program allows the students to earn their English IV credit as well as English 101 college credit for the fall semester and English 102 credit for the spring. These exemplary students intend to graduate from high school next May with their English IV credit AND six credit hours for English 101 and 102. I wish to commend these hardworking students on their efforts. It is my privilege to work with them.”

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Darrell Bourque**, this year’s Leo Marcello Visiting Poet, will share poems from his many collections on Saturday, September 26, at 8:00 p.m. in the Alumni Stream Center. He is Professor Emeritus in English from University of Louisiana at Lafayette and served as the Louisiana Poet Laureate during 2007-08. Bourque was recently reappointed to the position for a two-year term. Bourque’s forthcoming books include *Call and Response: A Conversation in Verse* with Jack Bedell (Texas Review Press, 2009) and *In Ordinary Light: New and Selected Poems* (University of Louisiana Press, 2010). Neil Connelly, Director of McNeese’s Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program, says “Darrell’s poetry is much like Darrell himself: warm, bright, loaded with wit and wisdom.” The reading, sponsored by the MFA Program, will be open to the public.

The **Annual Meeting** of the **South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA)** will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, **October 29-31, 2009**.