

ACADEMIC PURSUITS

Society of Akron Graduate English Scholars

Year in Review

By Marlia Fontaine-Weisse

Another finals week is upon us, which means the 2011-2012 academic year is coming to a close. This year was marked with many challenges for SAGES (like finally becoming recognized by The University as a student organization), but the perseverance of the Executive Officers and the support of our members and colleagues helped to make our first year of recognition a success!



Among those successes is the *Academic Pursuits* newsletter. I truly believe this newsletter helped to create a community atmosphere that celebrated excellence through encouraging involvement, providing resources to broaden our academic experience, and focusing on students' achievements. I want take this opportunity to thank the Academic Pursuits Committee, Kevin Kelsey and Brian Harrell, for all their hard work and contributions that helped this newsletter succeed. The end of the semester marks the end of my term as Chairperson, and the summer brings with it Brian and Kevin's graduation; I wish them all the luck in their future endeavors.

To that end, the Academic Pursuits Committee will start anew in the fall. If you would like to be considered for Chairperson or learn how to become a committee member, contact SAGES for more information: sagessociety@ymail.com. It has been an amazing year; here's hoping the summer turns out to be equally amazing!

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May 2012

Academic Pursuits Committee

Chairperson

Marlia Fontaine-Weisse
Vice-President, SAGES

Members

Kevin Kelsey
Brian Harrell

May Deadlines

Verse, Voice, and Vision: Cinema and Poetry (ed. edition)—May 15
<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/46137>

The various intersections of poetry, one of the oldest art forms, and film, one of the newest art forms, highlight the relevance of poetry in the modern world. Poetry has been considered in film in many ways: the use of poetry through biopics of poets, studies of particular directors who make widespread use of poetry in their films, specific poems/poets that feature frequently in films, a specific poem that drives a specific film, poetry films/poetic cinema etc. 250-word abstracts covering all treatments of this topic are welcome.

Urban Apocalypse, Urban Renaissance: Landscapes in Science Fiction and Fantasy—May 15

<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/46087>

Detroit is at once an apocalyptic city and a Renaissance city. Over the past ten years, Detroit has suffered immensely, especially during the economic downturn and the virtual demise of the auto industry. Its apocalyptic landscape of abandoned buildings, its negative image due to high crime rates, a recently impeached corrupt Mayor, Kwame Kilpatrick, and the loss of close to 300,000 people in the last census have made it the symbol of a city with a hopeless future. However, there is hope as the so called Renaissance city of the 1970s may now be experiencing a true Renaissance. The wide-ranging landscape of Detroit, Michigan is reminiscent of the various landscapes evident in science fiction and fantasy. Thus, Detroit can serve as an inspiration for paper topics considered at this conference to be held June 28-July 1. Papers can cover any topic concerning landscapes.

Adaptations Panel: MPCA/MCAA—May 31

<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/46101>

The panel organizer is currently seeking original work in the area of ADAPTATIONS for the annual Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association Annual Conference. Abstracts can include a wide variety of approaches to Adaptation Studies. These may include research on film adaptations of literary works, comic books, video games, television shows, mythology, other films, radio shows, cartoons, nonfiction books, etc. Along with a paper description, include university affiliation, professional address, and email address. I also welcome panel proposals, with three or more participants, consisting of a panel description along with a full list of presenters and paper titles. Please include university affiliation, professional address, and email address for each presenter and the chair.

If you are looking to stay abreast of conference and journal submissions over summer break, visit

<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu>



"It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed."

- Theodore Roosevelt



Spotlight: May Graduates

By Marlia Fontaine-Weisse

This month, we say goodbye to several of our brethren as they embark upon the journey to their careers. Rather than moving on without a backward glance, we asked them if they had any final thoughts they wanted to share with those of us left behind, and here is what a few of them had to say:

Q. What is one piece of advice you want to leave behind?

SAGES:

A student organization that focuses on helping graduate students of all tracks

(Composition, Fine Arts, and Literature) in the English field develop

professionally during their time at The University of Akron,

by providing members with resources to help them publish, present, and prepare.

SAGES also strives to promote unity among graduate students of the three tracks by creating events and providing resources that will benefit scholars regardless of their field.

Michael Goroff—This is probably advice I would give myself and no one else, if I could have given myself advice at the time, before I began my studies here, but that advice would be that nothing else matters besides your work. Do not get distracted by anything else. Everything else will disappear eventually. The work you do gives you the gift of permanence, so treat your work as if it actually means something, because if you don't, you won't have anything to show for yourself in the end besides a few extra pounds of fried dumplings and beer. I'm being dramatic, but get past the hyperbole and I think it's solid advice.

Sharon Martin—I would strongly urge students to work hard and finish at an earlier age than fifty! It gets more difficult with every year you wait.

Sara Keiper—Never be afraid to talk to your professors, no matter how stupid or unimportant you think it might be. And always get your OhioLink back on time—their fines are bananas.

Q. What was your most memorable moment?

Sara Keiper—Calling a character an “ass hat” during a serious, in-class discussion. (I was also directly across the prof. at the time.) I stand by my assertion: Basil of “The Bostonians” is an ass hat.

Sharon Martin—I think my most memorable moment was trying to give a presentation in Dr. Forster's class while on narcotics for a kidney stone. I was thankful that Dr. Forster said I sounded lucid enough not to have to do it again.

Q. Which professor inspired you the most?

Sharon Martin—Wow. Too many to count. I would like to thank all of my professors here at U of A. I loved having each of them. Because they all had such different disciplines, each added largely to my body of knowledge I now possess.

Sara Keiper—Dr. Dukes. He single-handedly managed to not only tolerate a subject I detest—modernist lit—but also had me looking forward to his classes.

Q. What are you going to do with your degree?

Sharon Martin—I plan on continuing teaching high school English, where I also currently teach Advanced Placement Literature and Language. With this degree, I will begin teaching dual credit courses at my school this upcoming year.

Ask an officer
how to
**Become a
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and
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April Highlights



Careers in Publishing



Visiting Poets at the BBM



Lit Guild Open Mic