

The Importance of Internships

By Kevin Kelsey

This summer I had the privilege of working as a marketing/public relations intern for the Akron-Summit Convention and Visitors Bureau at the John S. Knight Center in downtown Akron. Along with my everyday projects (such as working on their biannual newsletter and creating travel itineraries), I attended meetings and events in the Northeast Ohio area that gave me valuable experience and allowed me to make connections that will carry over after I graduate.



For those of you who have not yet had the internship experience—the time is now. Graduate students have good chances of being accepted to different companies because of the extra experience they bring with them, so there is no reason not to apply. An internship, even unpaid (as mine was), provides invaluable career experience that not only looks good on a resumé but also allows you to use that extra knowledge to get ahead in your chosen career. The Arts & Sciences Careers Program in Olin Hall provides all the information you need to get started—and they even walk you step-by-step through the application and internship process, helping you build a portfolio to use in future career endeavors.

The real world is a competitive place—more and more students are entering grad school every year. Getting an internship under your belt will set you apart from everyone else as someone who cares about their future and provide beneficial knowledge and experience that will help you no matter what you do after you graduate.

In This Issue

The Importance of Internships	1
October Deadlines	1
Spotlight	2
Chicago Trip 2011	4
Events	5
September Highlights	5

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October Deadlines

Cultural Studies Book on Brad Pitt: October 1st
<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/42123>

Proposals are being solicited for an edited volume organized around the subject of Brad Pitt. The editors envision a book on Brad Pitt that ranges broadly across the humanities, with chapters focusing on film studies, gender & sexuality, architecture, eco-criticism & critical regionalism, and popular culture. Submit 300-word abstracts with a current CV by the above deadline.

The Apocalypse in Literature and Film: October 1st
<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/42059>

Alien invasion, viral outbreak, nuclear holocaust, the rise of the machines, the flood, the second coming, the second ice age—these are just a few of the ways human beings have imagined their “end of days.” And someone’s Armageddon clock is always ticking. LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory solicits papers for an upcoming special issue on representations of the apocalypse in literature and film across a range of genres, time periods, and cultural traditions. Contributions of 5,000-10,000 words should be emailed along with 100-word abstracts.

The Newberry Library 2012 Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference: October 15th
<http://www.newberry.org/renaissance/conf-inst/gradstudents.html>

The Center for Renaissance Studies annual graduate student conference, organized and run by advanced doctoral students is currently accepting 300-word abstracts for 15-minute papers from master’s or Ph.D. students on any medieval, Renaissance, or early modern topic, in Europe or the Mediterranean or Atlantic worlds. Submissions are encouraged from disciplines as varied as the literature of any language, history, classics, art history, music, comparative literature, theater arts, philosophy, religious studies, transatlantic studies, disability studies, and manuscript studies. An online submission form plus a 300-word biographical paragraph must accompany all entries.

The Postgraduate Journal of Medieval Studies is looking for editors and contributions
<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/42043>

As publishing in established journals can be difficult for postgraduates, the PGMS can provide the necessary experience of writing, reviewing and editing as well as provide an insight into what postgraduate students are currently researching. Therefore, this journal is mainly looking for contributions from MA and MPhil students. However, PhDs are also welcome to submit articles and reviews.



“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”

-Malcolm S.
Forbes



Spotlight: Mike Krutel

By Marlia Fontaine-Weisse

This month’s featured student is Mike Krutel, MFA in Poetry candidate. His essay, “Resolved to play the jacks...to abuse your betters’: Social Insults and the Failure of *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*,” was one of only two by UA students selected for the 2011 Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference held at the Newberry Library. Below, he shares with us the benefit of going against the norm in student work.

Q. What inspired you to submit an abstract for the Newberry Conference last year?

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.

Ask an officer
how to
**Become a
Member**
and
JOIN TODAY!

Honestly, I never even gave a thought to trying to find a place to present a paper until Dr. Nunn brought it to my attention that there was a specific conference for Renaissance Studies. I took her Renaissance Drama Lit course in the fall of 2009, which as it happened gave me an entirely appropriate paper to submit to the conference. I thought, "Oh, cool, Chicago. I love going there," and sent my paper proposal in on a whim.

Q. What do you think made your essay stand out among the potential hundreds that were submitted?

That's a good question. I don't really know why. Maybe it was because my paper wasn't just another analysis of a Shakespeare, Jonson, or Marlowe play. My topic was directly applicable to social issues of the time during which the play took place, rather than just being about the play within itself. Also, it might have been some cosmic joke that the MFA student went to the Newberry instead of a Lit student.

Q. How did you come up with your paper topic?

I vaguely remember why as it has been almost two years since. I do remember struggling to find something interesting enough for me to care to investigate and write about. Ultimately I may have chosen the play ... because it was short lived, relatively unpopular in its time, and made penis jokes.

Q. Can you briefly explain the application process and what took place after your essay was accepted?

The most consuming thing is writing a good abstract. This is what is ultimately chosen in the process, not the paper itself. I drafted quite a few times and worked with Dr. Nunn to get it all set right. Then after I was accepted, there were forms and correspondence with the event coordinators, but most of the work was involved in cutting my 15 page essay down to about 7. It was a pain trying to decide what was important enough to appear in the paper and yet still interesting enough that someone might pay attention while I read aloud. I guess that's important to note: YOU WILL READ ALOUD and should style the writing for that purpose.

Q. What are your future career goals, and do they include participating in more conferences?

I don't know that any future goals will include the Newberry, seeing as how I am hopped up on poetry all the time. But yeah, I would like to participate in conferences in the future that deal more with poetry and/or creative writing in general. It would be one more way for me to force myself to focus on writing about something that I might easily study, put down, and move away from without the kind of structuring that paper writing forces you to do in such a specific way.

Q. What words of advice/encouragement can you offer students who look to submit essays to conferences in the future?

Just apply. You pore over 500 or so words of an abstract and that's it. You only have to do more work if they actually accept you. Also, be fun. Some of those people at these conferences take it too seriously. Yes, you're reading a paper and sharing some insight or information that you came across in research, but if you aren't stuffy then the air will clear and you might stand out. I made jokes about the movie Inception in the Q&A after my panel. Take it all to heart but not too seriously.

Chicago Trip 2011

By Marlia Fontaine-Weisse

During winter break, SAGES is hosting an inexpensive excursion to the Newberry Library in Chicago. Though this trip is designed for those interested in ways to extend their academic research beyond the tools offered here at The University of Akron, attendance is open to all graduate students—especially those looking to have fun!

In addition to providing graduate students and faculty with opportunities for advanced study in a variety of literary periods, The Newberry Library provides a home to a world-class collection of books, manuscripts, and maps, and also to a growing community of readers. Its collections, spanning many centuries, feature a wide range of materials, from illuminated medieval manuscripts to rich genealogical resources, and from early printed books to the personal papers of Midwest authors. Touring the facilities will teach us just how we can take advantage of our department's connection with the Newberry through their Center for Renaissance Studies.

Below, you will find preliminary details regarding the itinerary and associated costs. If interested, please contact us at: sagessociety@ymail.com by October 15th, and let's make this a trip worth remembering!

Have Something to Say?

We value student contributions and look forward to your well-written, appropriately-themed articles. To learn more about how to submit or how to become a committee member, email us at:

ua_academic_pursuits@yahoo.com

Trip Details

- Leave Cleveland via MEGABUS at 8:15am Wednesday, December 14th. Arrive in Chicago at 1:45pm at Union Station.
- Take the 62 bus, then the 8 to the hotel: Days Inn Chicago, 644 W. Diversey Pkwy (Corner of Diversey/Clark/Broadway), Chicago, IL 60614
- Free night in Chicago (researched options forthcoming)
- Take the 22 bus for Newberry Library tour at 3:00pm Thursday, December 15th.
- Free night in Chicago (researched options forthcoming)
- Leave Chicago via MEGABUS at 8:15am Friday, December 16th from Union Station. Arrive in Cleveland at 4:00pm.

Anticipated Costs

Hotel

- \$58.16 per person/4 people per room
- Based on 2 double bed rooms @ \$232.65

Megabus Ticket

- \$48 per roundtrip ticket

Public Transit

- \$2.25 per use
- Minimum of 6 bus trips required for travel
- Reduced rates avail with pass purchase

Total Cost Before Meals and Spending Money:

- \$119.66

Events

Professional Development Workshop: *How to Use Rare Books and Archives*

Thursday, October 6th, in the Polsky Building, room LL10 from 3:30p-5p

Archival Services of University Libraries collects, preserves and provides access to important historical resources in support of the research and scholarly activity of the university community, visiting scholars, and the general public. Join SAGES as we tour this facility and discover how to use this service for your own research. Open to all graduate students.

The Big Big Mess Reading Series

Friday, October 7th, at Annabelle's Bar & Lounge from 6p-9p

The Big Big Mess is a national reading series based in Akron, Ohio, bringing together national and local writers, with a focus on work that is new, awesome, and a bit of a mess. This event is featuring David Dodd Lee, Louise Mathias, Lesley Jenike, & Joshua Butts. For more information, check the BMM blog at <http://bigbigmess.tumblr.com/>, or find them on Facebook.

***The Glass Castle* Author, Jeanette Walls, to Visit UA**

Wednesday, October 12th, at E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall at 7:30p

Walls, the author of this year's common reading selection, will present information regarding her book and other topics. Admission is free for students with valid ID, and students are encouraged to acquire their tickets prior to the event.

Dr. Charles DeBose to Talk About "The Language of Black Performance"

Wednesday, October 19th, at the Martin University Center, Library Room from 4p-6p

Far from being stigmatized like African American Vernacular English, the language of Black performance has higher prestige than any other dialect of American English. Join him as he explains how artistic performance permeates the Black Experience and extends beyond the stage to everyday life, and that all genres of speech which represent the Black Experience have in common features of pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar stigmatized in other spheres as "bad" English but transformed in performance into a Black counter-language in which bad is good.

September Highlights



Visiting poet Adam
Fell at the Big Big
Mess Reading.



Matt Hart at the
Big Big Mess



Nate Pritts at the
Big Big Mess



Visiting poet
Matthew Guenette
at the Big Big Mess
Reading.