

## Careers in Publishing

By Marlia Fontaine-Weisse

With May just around the corner, many students will be graduating, catapulting themselves directly into the job market. It is no secret that careers in higher education are rapidly decreasing, and students who have not decided to go on in their studies are at an impasse as to what other options are available to them with their Master's degrees. Luckily, the upcoming event, Careers in Publishing, is here to provide viable options for rewarding careers!



On Wednesday, April 4, join us at the Martin University Center to learn about the different publishing divisions, how to become more employable, and what types of internships are available. Network with some of the industry's top companies, determine which breakout session is right for you, and dress to impress!

The schedule for the event is as follows:

3:00-3:30p	Meet and network with publishing representatives.
3:30-4:00p	Sit in on one half-hour breakout session to learn specific information about the publishing industry from that representative's point of view.
4:00-4:30p	Ask any follow-up questions and/or meet and network with remaining publishing representatives.

For questions or further information, contact SAGES at [sagessociety@ymail.com](mailto:sagessociety@ymail.com). Come see the dynamic possibilities awaiting you in publishing; this is an event you surely won't want to miss!

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### Academic Pursuits Committee

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Marlia Fontaine-Weisse  
Vice-President, SAGES

#### Members

Kevin Kelsey  
Brian Harrell

## April Deadlines

*Mythic, Magical & Monstrous Women in Contemporary Women's Writing*: April 6th

<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/45802>

This symposium, scheduled for June 20, 2012, at the University of Leicester, seeks to address why the magical, mythical and the monstrous continue to remain prominent in contemporary women's writing and explore how such tropes and topics continue to be deployed and reworked by authors to represent women in fiction. Organizers ask for abstracts of no more than 250 words by the deadline.

*Special Graduate Issue of paj: The Journal of the Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture—April 6<sup>th</sup>*  
<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/45682>

*paj: The Journal of the Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture* (formerly *The Poetess Archive Journal*) solicits articles for a special graduate student issue. They welcome a wide range of articles on Digital Humanities theory or practice, including topics such as: Critical Code Theory, Crowd Sourcing Principles and Practice, Cultural Criticisms in DH, Digital Pedagogies, Digital Rhetorics, OCR Principles and Practice, and Project Development and Ideologies. Go to <http://ojs.tamu.edu/index.php/paj> for submission guidelines.

*NANO: New American Notes Online, Special Issue—April 20<sup>th</sup>*  
<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/45775>

The NANO has issued a call for papers for its special issue focusing on Evaluation, Prizes, and Peer Review to determine what are the best and newest methods for creating, evaluating, and disseminating scholarly and creative work. As digital formats help to foster new ways to share and critique written and artistic work, as more people try to squeeze through the narrowing bottleneck of publishing, approval, and jobs, something has to give, or at least change. For submission guidelines, visit [nanocrit.com](http://nanocrit.com).

*Marry the Night: Nightlife, Performance, and Queer World Making – April 22<sup>nd</sup>*  
<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/45686>

MARRY THE NIGHT, a one-day Pre-Conference that will bridge the gap between scholarship, theater practice, popular culture, and public scholarship, aims to bring scholars and practitioners of queer night worlds together for a day of panels, performances, and embodied listening. To be considered, follow the link above and submit a CV and 300 word abstract.



“It is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt



## Spotlight: Chris Drabick

By Kevin Kelsey

This month, *Academic Pursuits* turns its spotlight on Chris Drabick, Editor-in-Chief of the *Rubbertop Review* and MFA in Fiction candidate. With the release of the fourth volume under way, we thought it a good idea to have Chris provide some insight into its publication. Read on to see what it takes to produce this student-run literary magazine.

**Q. First off, what is *Rubbertop Review*? Tell us a bit about what it does, who reads it, etc., and also why you were interested in being part of the staff.**

## 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!**

Rubbertop is the University's literary magazine, now in its fourth year. We give a forum to fiction and creative non-fiction writers as well as poets from Ohio and beyond, with special attention given to publishing works from UA students. Our readership is mostly concentrated in NE Ohio, but we're always looking for ways to get bigger and broader.

**Q. As managing editor, what are your responsibilities? Are you simply tasked with keeping the ship sailing, or is it more than that? Do you contribute to the selection process, or do you have other duties?**

*I tried to keep out of things as far as editorial goes (although as a fiction writer, I might have bugged Michael and Daryl about my feelings on a piece or three). Essentially everything else is up to me and our advisor, Eric Wasserman. I could list everything we have to do in order to get an issue to print, but it'd only bore you. I can say that Amy Freels at the UA Press is invaluable in all that she does to help the process of moving from a scattered mess of Microsoft Word files into an actual printed piece of text. It really couldn't be done without her.*

**Q. How many submissions do you get each month, and how do you go about deciding which ones to use?**

*This varies wildly. Writers respond to deadlines, so while most months are a trickle as far as submissions go, the floodgates open as the deadline for submissions (which is usually in mid-January) approaches. While there are months in the fall in which we could count the number of submissions on one hand, this expands exponentially once the New Year rolls around.*

*As far as what is accepted, each editor brings their own aesthetic to the table, which is what helps keep the journal from being monolithic. Meg Johnson as the Poetry editor is a very different reader than Sharon Cebula, our Creative Non-Fiction editor. The two Fiction editors, Michael Goroff and Daryl Largent, also have pretty different taste in what moves them, although they were able to agree on what is published in our forthcoming issue sans fisticuffs. As the editor-in-chief, I find it best to be as hands-off as possible when it comes to editorial decisions, because every one of these four is an experienced reader who knows what works, and my confidence in their abilities was definitely rewarded when I look at this year's content.*

*The editors stay within their genre, although they definitely can (and do) seek the opinions of their fellow editors for pieces that they might be on the fence about. This year, we ranked some maybe's by giving them a point value as individual readers and then making the decision by highest tally. Very scientific.*

**Q. What's the collaborative process that you go through to put Rubbertop Review together? How often do you release it, and what has to be done each time to ensure that everything's on schedule and in place?**

*This is a tough one. The entire editorial staff, including me, is completely new to the process this year. We've done a lot of on-the-job learning, and this is even greater now that editorial decisions have been made and we move toward editing and printing. To date, we've published yearly, although there is some thought that, as the collective baby deer gets its leg strength, we might consider biannual publication. But let's not put the cart before the horse. Frankly, I just want to see how many references to hoofed mammals I can work into this answer. Cow.*

## Events

### Careers in Publishing

Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Martin University Center from 3p-4:30p

Come find out everything you wanted to know about the publishing industry! Even if you're not planning on a career in publishing, but have a burning desire to write, attend to learn the publishing process and what it takes to get your work published! Open to the public.

### The BIG BIG PARTY!

Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at Annabell's Bar & Lounge from 6p-9p

The BIG BIG MESS is a national reading series based in Akron, Ohio, that brings together national and local writers with a focus on work that is new, awesome, and a bit of a mess. This is the last event in Akron; now's your chance to experience the awesomeness before it's all gone!

### The English Department Student Awards Reception

Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Martin University Center from 3:30p-5p

Join the Department in celebrating student achievements for the 2011-2012 academic year!

### 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

## March Highlights



One of the visiting poets at The BBM



Attendees at the CCCC Annual Convention in St. Louis, MO



Recipients of the "Outstanding Woman Student Award"



Shakespeare Essay Prize Winners



NEOMFA at AWP in Chicago, IL



Visiting lecturer at Shakespeare in the Spring