

# The English Channel

The Department of English

@ Oakland University

Rochester, MI

September 2013



Season of mists and mellow  
fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the  
maturing sun;  
Keats

## From the Chair

Dear Friends,

While one news story after another laments the "crisis" in higher education, I look around our Department and see only signs of growth and progress. This year, we welcomed three new tenure-track faculty members (Adam Gould in Cinema Studies, Dave Shaerf in Creative Writing, and Amanda Stearns-Pfeiffer in English Education), in addition to four new tenure-track colleagues who joined us last year. The numbers of our majors remain consistent and strong, and the number of majors in our new programs, Cinema Studies and Creative Writing, continue to grow. Indeed, the number of Creative Writing majors has quadrupled the estimated total!

Students who major in English, Cinema Studies and Creative Writing at Oakland receive an education that prepares them for the workplace -- they learn to read carefully, to think critically and to write clearly. But more than that, our faculty members encourage students to be creative and original; we design extracurricular programs that will help our students succeed on the job market. Through internships that teach workplace skills, to a mentoring program that aligns graduating students with recent graduates who have successfully launched their own careers, to career events designed specifically for our majors, we look for strategies to serve our students well beyond the classroom.



Kathleen Pfeiffer, Chair  
Department of English

## Did you know . . . ?

October's events are highlighted by the *Maurice Brown Poetry Reading*. Do you know who Maurice Brown was and why the reading is named after him?

**M**aurice Brown was on the faculty of the English Department for many years and loved poetry. His wife, Professor Judy Brown, currently teaches in the Anthropology Department. The reading that bears her husband's name is made possible in part by her generosity. Past poets have included Phillip Levine, Albert Goldbarth, and Sharon Bryan. The Kresge Library also houses the Maurice Brown Collection of Contemporary Poetry.



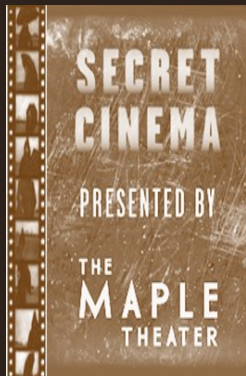
Oakland University is honored once again to host the International Conference on Romanticism. The theme for this year's prestigious event is *Romantic Relations*. There is still time to register for a unique program featuring nationally recognized scholars, including members of our own Oakland faculty.

[More](#)

## Secret Cinema

### Ongoing

PREVIEW—CUE VOICE OVER : *In a world . . . dominated . . . by the tyranny of movie reviews . . . one department stands alone in seeing films the way they were meant to be seen* —



without a clue.

This hugely popular event offers you the chance to see notable films selected and presented by the Cinema Studies faculty. The title is a secret, so when the lights go down viewers get to share in the experience of discovering something totally unexpected. The series is in two parts: Old Hollywood and New Hollywood, on the first and third Thursdays of the month, utilizing the pivotal year of 1967 as a historical dividing line. Previous selections have included *Vertigo*, *The Apartment*, *Before Sunrise*, *Bringing Up Baby*, and *Saturday Night Fever*. For more information, check out this link to [Maple Theater](#) and watch for upcoming announcements in The English Channel.

## Art Exhibition September 21—29

Andrea Eis's artwork can be seen in an exhibition opening in Detroit on Saturday, September 21, at Studio Couture. The exhibition, entitled "Doing It, and Doing It, and Doing It Well," is an examination of the artist's methodology and its connection to craft and the studio practice and features twenty Detroit-based Cranbrook Academy of Art graduates. Andrea's installation piece represents the working process for her *Antigone* series. It includes typed and annotated lists of lines from Sophocles' *Antigone*, contact sheets of raw material, work prints, and finished works in a range of sizes – some clipped on the wall, others laid out under glass – as well as prints on fabric hung in the window. This physical embodiment of the methodology of studio practice combines the threads of fragmented textual translation and analysis of the play with a visual exploration of image, text, color and composition in the photographs.



For details about Studio Couture, including location and hours, follow this link to the [Facebook page](#).

### Maurice Brown Poetry Reading



Laura Kasischke

We are delighted to welcome National Book Critics Circle Award winner Laura Kasischke to the annual Maurice Brown Poetry Reading. This Seager Collegiate Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Michigan continues to garner praise for her eight books of poems and nine books of fiction. Don't miss this reading, one of the key-stone events of the fall semester. **Tuesday, October 22, 4—6 p.m.**

[More](#)

### English Major Career Event

October 8

5—6:30

Oakland Room/Oakland Center

### English Major Internship Night

October 16

5—6

129/30 Oakland Center

One of the most critical lessons anyone can learn is that preparation for future careers begins long before someone hands you that diploma. In the English Department we take that preparation seriously. This October two events should definitely be on your schedule, whether you're an English major or still exploring.

The [Career Event](#) raises your awareness of the value of your degree, what types of careers English majors are going into, and what practical steps you can take to get ready for the job search.

In addition, it is now an accepted fact that the single most important thing you can do to increase your opportunities for employment is to participate in at least *one* internship before graduation. The English Department offers several that are geared directly for our majors. Come to the [Internship Open House](#) to learn about how you can take this critical step toward your future.

### Author on Campus

OU's student-run research and literary journal, *Echo Cognitio*, is hosting a reading with author [Katey Schultz](#). Katey's first collection, *Flashes of War*, is drawing great reviews. She will be speaking with students and possibly visiting writing workshops while on campus. Katey holds an MFA from Pacific University, where she studied under Bonnie Jo Campbell and Jack Driscoll, and currently spends her summers teaching at the Interlochen Center for the Arts, along with Allison Espach.



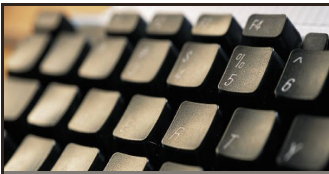
**Thursday, October 10, 5:00—6:30**

[More](#)

### Applying to Graduate School

Thinking about continuing on or maybe even going back? Want to know more about the process? Even if you're not an English major you'll appreciate the sound guidance offered by experts on the subject.

**Thursday, October 10, 5—6 :30 @ Lake Huron Room/OC**



## IN PRINT/ON FILM



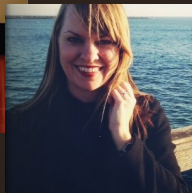
Professor Courtney Brannon Donoghue

Members of the faculty of Cinema Studies stand ready to make any sacrifice, even if it means traveling all the way to the French Riviera to attend the Cannes Film Festival. If your ticket got lost in the mail, you can still read about the exciting trip Professor Courtney Brannon Donoghue made this summer to the internationally famous event.

While there she lent her expertise to student programming activities and the mentorship of student interns.

[More](#)

Meanwhile, Professor Hoffman-Han conducted an amazing interview with South Korea's most artistically and commercially successful film-maker to date—Park Chan-wook. Read more about her experiences with the famous auteur [here](#). The entire essay and interview is also available online, including pictures!



Professor Alison Hoffman-Han

[InterviewandEssay](#)

### The Call is Out

What's that you say? You'd love to be part of *Mad Men* milieu but just can't find the time for all the drinking, smoking, philandering and general moral ambiguity?

Never fear, now you can embrace your inner Peggy, Don, or even Bob by simply *writing copy*. If you want to promote an event, or even yourself, in the newsletter, you can write your own copy and send it to:

Bailey McDaniel

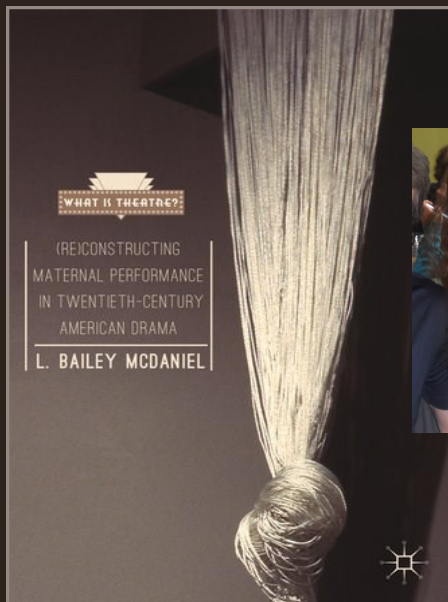
O'Dowd Hall

(248) 370-2008

[mcdanie2@oakland.edu](mailto:mcdanie2@oakland.edu)

Of course, we will also be happy to manage your ad account for you.

Just send along your information in whatever form you have and our talented staff will take care of crafting it into a winning presentation!



This semester is proving to be a pretty good one for Professor Bailey McDaniel.

Her new book *(Re)Constructing Maternal Performance in Twentieth-Century American Drama* was released this month by Palgrave Macmillan. Professor McDaniel told us that in addition to the exciting and rewarding work she gets to do this semester with OU students in her capstone class ("Exploring the 'B' Word in World Drama") and her drama survey course, her book's official release is a deeply satisfying accomplishment. She is proud to have contributed to the scholarship on contemporary American drama, race, and gender. She mentioned that she is also particularly excited (and grateful) to have the stunning artwork of the department's own Professor Andrea Eis on her book's cover.

[More](#)

## Upcoming Events in November

### *Mushrooms*

by Laura Kasischke

Like silent naked monks huddled  
around an old oak tree stump, having  
spun themselves in the night  
out of thought and nothingness—

And God so pleased with their silence  
He grants them teeth and tongues.

Like us.

How long have you been gone?

A child's hot tears on my bare arms.

Eighth Annual Read-In—**Monday, November 25**

Screening of the film *Vantage Point* and Q/A with screenwriter Barry  
Levy—**Thursday, November 21**

Film screening, *Shakespeare Behind Bars*, with founder and producing director  
Curt L. Tofteland—**Monday, November 25**

Film screening by Tom Magill of *MICKEY B Stunning Shakespeare from the Scrapheap  
of Society* - Michael Bogdanov—**Tuesday, November 26**

Make sure to watch the [department website](#) for details about these exciting events,  
and look for next month's English Channel

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