

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Jacqueline Arnold

Jacqueline Arnold has a PhD in Literacy Education and currently teaches English Education at Minnesota State University in Mankato. Jacqueline has a license to teach 7-12 English and Spanish and taught at Madelia High School for fifteen years. Before teaching high school in the United States, Jacqueline served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco where she taught TEFL. Jacqueline's research interests include online teaching, teaching multicultural literature, and literacy education. She is the President of Minnesota Council of Teachers of English.

Elizabeth Barniskis

Elizabeth Barniskis teaches English at Edina High School. She received National Board Certification in English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood in 2009 and is completing a certificate program in writing and critical literacy at the University of Minnesota. She is a member of her district's equity team and participated in the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education teacher training program. She is currently working with colleagues to create a culturally responsive curriculum.

Richard Beach

Richard Beach is Professor of English Education, University of Minnesota. He is the author/co-author of *Teaching Literature to Adolescents*, 2nd ed. (<http://teachingliterature.pbworks.com>); *Literacy Tools In The Classroom: Teaching Critical Inquiry, Grades 5-12* (<http://literacytooluses.pbworks.com>); *Teaching Writing Using Blogs, Wikis, And Other Digital Tools* (<http://digitalwriting.pbworks.com>); and *Teachingmedialiteracy.com: A Web-based Guide to Links and Activities* (<http://www.teachingmedialiteracy.com>; <http://teachingmedialiteracy.pbworks.com>). He is Vice-President Elect of the Literacy Research Association and will be retiring from the University of Minnesota in Spring, 2011 after teaching at the University for 38 years.

Dallas Crow

Dallas lives in St. Paul and teaches upper school English at Breck School in Golden Valley. His writing on poetry has previously appeared in *English Journal*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, and *Notes on Contemporary Literature*. His own poems have appeared in a number of periodicals (including the last print issue of *Minnesota English Journal*), two anthologies, and—through a public arts program—in the sidewalks of St. Paul.

Candice Deal

Candice Deal is a second-year graduate student at Minnesota State University. She is working towards a Masters of Art in English Literature, specifically focusing on contemporary South Asian fiction. Her thesis work investigates gender performativity and body politics in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*. Last year, Candice had the opportunity to present at several conferences including the MCTE. After graduation, she plans to pursue a teaching career.

Jessica Dockter Tierney

Jessica Dockter Tierney is a doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota. She is currently writing her dissertation about a year-long study examining students' conversations about race and identity in a high-school documentary filmmaking class. She has presented papers about digital literacies, critical engagement, and white racial identities at national and local conferences, including the National Council of Teachers of English and the National Reading Conference/Literacy Research Association. Her co-authored publications include "Redefining Rigor: Critical Engagement, Digital Media, and the New English/Language Arts" in the *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy* and "Reading Literature in Secondary School: Disciplinary Discourses in Global Times" in the *Handbook on Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature*.

Corrine Ehrfurth

Corinne Ehrfurth currently returned from a sabbatical teaching college-level composition and completing her M. A. in English at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She is back working at Rochester Mayo High School, where for the last nine years she has taught a variety of composition and literature-based courses. One elective, Humanities Search, inspired the topic of her thesis: analyzing tenets of Hinduism espoused in contemporary Indian novels. In addition to her passion for researching cultures and viewpoints expressed in literature, her professional values lead her into efforts that try to increase articulation between all levels of a student's education. Past community responsibilities include coaching high school volleyball, facilitating Link Crew's freshman transition intervention, serving as the chair of Mayo's English Department, and working in a Small Learning Communities Grant position that provided time to collaborate with Rochester Community and Technical College instructors. Presently, she serves as the MCTE secondary co-chair with Scott Hall.

Linda Lein

Linda Frances Lein currently teaches at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSU-Moorhead). At MSU-Moorhead, Linda teaches a variety of online writing courses: English Composition I, English Composition II, English Composition III, Introduction to Creative Writing, and Technical Report Writing. She has nine years of experience as an English distance education college instructor and ten years of experience as an English middle school teacher. She is also a member of the Lake Region Writers Network Board, which is a nonprofit organization formed to serve writers in nine counties in west central Minnesota. She has published four books: *Mother to Mother: Letters about Being a Mom* (1999), *Country Reflections* (2000), *Hannah Kempfer: An Immigrant Girl* (2002), and *The Making of a Small Town: Carlisle, Minnesota* (2008). And from 1999-2003 she wrote a bimonthly column called "A Day in the Life of a Farm Wife" for *AGRI-GUIDE*. Linda lives on a farm with her husband and two sons near Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Brian C. Lewis

Brian earned his Ph.D. in Critical Studies in the Teaching of English from Michigan State University in 2004. He is now a full-time instructor of both English and Women and Gender Studies at Century College in White Bear Lake, MN. At Century, he teaches composition, American Literature courses, and Introduction to GLBT Studies. His primary teaching and research interests include gender and sexuality issues, American Literature before the Civil War, composing in digital environments, and writing center pedagogy. In addition to serving as *MEJ* editor, he earned Honorable Mention for the Diana Hacker Award from TYCA in 2009 (for his work with Century's Online Writing Center) and was named one of MnSCU's Outstanding Educators in 2010. During the 2010-11 academic year, he is on sabbatical from Century to learn more about how to integrate digital technologies into community college composition classrooms.

Molly McCarthy Vasich

Molly McCarthy Vasich is currently completing her second year of teaching at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Molly teaches media and documentary film in addition to more traditional English classes. In November, Molly received the 2010 NCTE Affiliate Leadership Development Award, recognizing her as an early career teacher who demonstrates a capacity for professional leadership.

Heather Megarry Traeger

Heather Megarry Traeger currently teaches at Rosemount High School and Eagan High School. For four years, she taught at a charter high school in Minneapolis that was created by members of East African (Somali and Oromo) communities in the Twin Cities. She has served as the MCTE Secondary Chair and continues to coordinate Minnesota's entries to the NCTE Achievement Award in Writing Contest for high school juniors. Traeger is writing a non-fiction manuscript about her charter school experiences.

Bill Meissner

Bill Meissner is author of seven books. His first fiction book, a collection of baseball stories entitled *Hitting into the Wind* (Random House, SMU Press Paperback, 1997), received enthusiastic reviews nationally in over 70 publications. His second book of stories is *The Road To Cosmos* (University of Notre Dame Press). His writing has received praise by such authors as Tim O'Brien, Richard Ford, Susan Power, Jonis Agee, and W. P. Kinsella, and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., who called Meissner "A storyteller with remarkable gifts." Meissner's latest novel, *Spirits in the Grass*, was published in September, 2008 by the University of Notre Dame Press. The novel won the 2008 Midwest Book Award, received a starred review in the Sept. *Booklist* and was featured in a syndicated AP wire story. It will be released as an eBook in June 2011.

Carol Mohrbacher

Carol Mohrbacher is currently an Associate Professor of English and writing center director at St. Cloud State University. Her research interests include composition, developmental writing pedagogy, and digital copyright as it affects academic authorship. She has presented at various local, regional, national and international conferences including MCTE, CCCC, International Writing Center Association, Midwest Writing Centers Association, and the International Cultural Studies Conference. She has published in a variety of traditional and online publications, including the *California Quarterly*, *Sidewalks*, *The Anthology of Minnesota Writers 1996*, *The Power and Persistence of Stereotyping* (University of Aveiro, Portugal), and *CCCC's Top Intellectual Property Developments* (2009). She has also guest-edited a feature article for *Kairos* and served as reviewer for the American Library Association's periodical, *Choice Magazine*. Currently, she is working with her staff on a set of writing podcasts.

Anne O'Meara

Anne O'Meara has taught composition and American literature at Minnesota State University, Mankato for the last twenty years; she began teaching in Edina, MN where she taught 7th and 8th grade math and English. At MSU, she co-directs the Valley Writing Project, a faculty development program to support the teaching of writing across the curriculum and is a mentor in the College in the Schools program. Her research interests include teaching multicultural literature, online teaching, and the transition of high school writers to college.

Daryl Parks

Daryl Parks, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of English Education at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, MN. He serves as the Co-Chair of English Education for the Minnesota Council of Teachers of English. His primary academic interests include the relationships between identities, literacy practices, and student outcomes. He consults with a variety of school districts to improve instruction and reduce the achievement gaps.

Paula Schevers

Paula Schevers is currently pursuing her M.A. degree in English Literature and a graduate certificate in Gender and Women's Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU). Her current thesis and research interests include Gothic and Victorian literature, fiction by Angela Carter, and feminist/psychoanalytic literary theory and criticism.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF 2011 MN CONFERENCES

2011 Call for Proposals (CFP) MnCUEW in Collaboration with the University of Minnesota

Connecting Diverse Discourses: Language, Literacy, and Literature

Theme: "Connecting Communities: Language, Literacy, and Literature"

Site: North Hennepin Community College (NHCC) in Brooklyn Park, MN

Keynote Speakers: Author Kao Kalia Yang, and NHCC President and former English Professor John O'Brien

The conference theme, "Diverse Discourses: Literacies, Writing, and Literature," provides a forum for college and university English instructors to discuss the multiplicity of literacies reflected in literature, composition, and creative writing. The MnCUEW conference provides a platform for sharing diverse pedagogies and styles in teaching literature, composition, ESL, and creative and professional writing. We will also learn more about the ways colleagues are researching, collaborating, and making connections with each other and among disciplines, fields, institutions, and communities. **Send electronic submissions only to writeplace@stcloudstate.edu.**

Conference organizers seek individual and panel proposals from any faculty member (full-time or adjunct) or graduate student involved in teaching, tutoring, or research addressing any aspect of teaching literature, composition, ESL, and creative and/or professional writing. Topics may include but are not limited to

Literature

Writing about literature

Culture and context in literature and writing

The teaching of writing or literature to nonnative speakers

The teaching of writing or literature to nontraditional students

Research on writing and literature

Technology/New Media

New media/new literacies

Computers and writing/literature (computer-assisted and online instruction)

Composition/Writing Pedagogies

Topics in composition or basic writing

Teaching research in first year composition

Technical and professional writing and communication

Writing competencies and assessment

Cultural, social, or religious themes/issues in literature, writing, or teaching

Literacy/Literacies

Minnesota urban, suburban, small town, and rural communities and constituencies in literacy practices

Writing centers as crossroads of literacy practices

Writing Centers

Writing centers: connecting with high schools, middle schools, and/or the community at large

Writing center collaboration with other fields and other entities

Working with diverse populations in writing centers: research and practice

Creative Writing

Creative writing (both craft and creative work)

Approaches to teaching creative writing

Research/Diversity/Inter-disciplinary, Inter-Institutional Connections

Research and/or approaches to teaching writing to diverse populations

Undergraduate research in literature and writing

Cross-institutional discussions/influences among colleges or between high schools and colleges/universities

Diversity in the literature classrooms

Writing across the curriculum/writing-intensive courses or programs

Submission Deadline: March 1. Send electronic submissions only to writeplace@stcloudstate.edu.

This program is made possible through a Center for Teaching and Learning grant with generous funding from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System Office of the Chancellor.

MnCUEW Committee:

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2011 MCTE Spring Conference

Literacy at the Lake

Friday, April 15 & Saturday, April 16
Cragun's Resort & Hotel on Gull Lake, Brainerd

Friday

Welcome and Keynote:

Frank Sentwali, spoken word artist and performance poet

Break-out sessions from elementary through college teachers across the state.

Lunch Speaker and Evening Entertainment:

Lorna Landvik, author, actor, comedienne

Saturday

Teacher and author **Jim Burke**, for an extended workshop, 9:00 - 2:00
Letters About Literature presentations during lunch

Conference Registration ~ Deadline: April 1

Conference registration:

Full registration: \$190

Single day registration: \$100

Full-time student/Student teacher: \$50 per day

Hotel Reservation ~ Deadline: March 14

For conference and hotel reservation forms, please go online to

www.mcte.org

CALL FOR PAPERS: 2012 MINNESOTA ENGLISH JOURNAL

Please consider submitting an academic article, a brief teaching tip, a letter to the editor, a hypertext, a multimedia presentation, or a creative work (such as a poem, short fiction, or play) for the next issue of *Minnesota English Journal*. We have no required number of pages or words for our submissions, but if you cite academic sources in your work, please do so according to *MLA Handbook for Writers for Research Papers*, 7th edition. Please also keep in mind that we are a peer-reviewed journal with an editorial board. Our acceptance rate is approximately 50-60%; therefore, we cannot accept all submissions. Most importantly, before you submit to *MEJ*, keep in mind that *MEJ*'s audience primarily consists of teachers from the elementary to the college level who want to learn more about effective teaching techniques.

The theme of the upcoming MCTE 2011 Spring Conference in Brainerd, MN is "Literacy at the Lake." This theme may also tie to our upcoming *MEJ* issue. For example, you may wish to consider submissions that explore the following themes, topics, or ideas involving "literacy" at the K-college level:

- What is literacy? How has its definition changed over time?
- The relationship between literacy and power.
- Race/class/gender/sexual orientation issues and literacy.
- Standardized testing as a means of gauging literacy ability.
- Digital/online/hybrid literacies and composition classrooms.
- Social networking/texting as literate practices in everyday student lives.
- Global/cross-cultural literacies.
- The relationship between "literature" and "literacy."
- Literacy and community activism.
- Graphic novels as visual literacies.
- The writing center/lab as a place for literacy development.

The idea of practicing "literacy" at a "lake" may even suggest the following topics:

- Nature as a visual text.
- The relationship between literacy and peace/tranquility.
- The idea of the "lake" as a retreat for writers.
- Literary moments on/at "the lake."

DUE DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR 2012 ISSUE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2011. (The 2012 issue should come out by mid-February 2012.) Authors should be informed of the status of their submissions by October 15, 2011. If you have questions, comments, or concerns about the next issue of *MEJ*, please contact the current *MEJ* Editor, Brian Lewis, at brian.lewis@century.edu.