

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Brosnan

Jim Brosnan, Ph.D. (Boston College) is a full professor at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI where he teaches Poetry, Drama, Introduction to Literary Genres, English Composition, Advanced Composition, and Communication Skills. He is the adviser to *The Maze*, the university's literary magazine, and to the Weybosset Hill Writers, a student creative writing group. Jim has been a five-time finalist (2nd, 2010) in the New England Association of Teachers of English's Poet of the Year competition. He is currently serving as the President of the Rhode Island Council of Teachers of English and is the director of the 73rd Writers Conference at Ocean Park (Maine). Jim's current project is assembling his fifth chapbook of poems accompanied by his original photography.

Rebecca Fremo

Rebecca Fremo is Associate Professor and Chair of English at Gustavus Adolphus College, where she teaches courses including Academic Writing, Creative Nonfiction, and First Term Seminar. Originally trained in Rhetoric and Composition, Fremo now splits her intellectual time between scholarship and poetry. Her essays have appeared in journals including *READER: Essays in Reader-Oriented Theory, Criticism, and Pedagogy; Composition Studies*; and *Writing Lab Newsletter*, and her poems can be found in journals including *Water-Stone Review*, *The Tidal Basin Review*, *Poetica*, and *Naugatuck River Review*. Her first chapbook of poems, *Chasing Northern Lights*, was published by Finishing Line Press in 2012. She's currently working on dual projects: a study of the revision practices of multilingual students and a poetry manuscript titled *The Last Good Day*.

Greg Heinecke

Greg Heinecke is currently a curriculum specialist and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) trainer for the Elk River Area school district in Elk River, Minnesota. With a background in English education, he collaborates with district colleagues on embedding literacy strategies into their instruction. A secondary focus has been in helping establish online learning opportunities for the district's high schools. Future plans lie in the work of grading and assessment and how to best report, support, and increase student learning.

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. This year, he is teaching a course called "Graphic Narratives: Comics as Literature" for the first time.

Jeanette Lukowski

Jeanette Lukowski is currently teaching a wide variety of writing classes at Bemidji State University, and overseeing the work of the campus' writing center. The semester she shares in this essay took place on the heels of completing an MFA in Creative Writing--a personal reminder about how the paths of writing and teaching intersect in very empowering ways. *Heart Scars*, Jeanette's memoir of survival, will be released by North Star Press of St. Cloud on June 1st.

Carol Mohrbacher

Carol Mohrbacher is a professor of English and the writing center director at St. Cloud State University. She earned a B.A. in French and an M.A. in English at SCSU and completed her PhD in Rhetoric and Professional Communication at Iowa State University. Her dissertation concerns the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and its effects on student and faculty authorship. Beyond an ongoing interest in digital copyright issues, her current research involves a study of Generation 1.5 student writing and synchronous online tutoring. In addition to academic writing, she writes fiction, poetry, and memoir. Her most recent creative writing project is a series of vignettes about her six and a half years working as a longshoreman titled, "Brandoland."

Mike Mutschelknaus

Mike Mutschelknaus teaches English courses at Rochester Community and Technical College. He recently was recognized as one of MNSCU's Outstanding Educators for 2013. He is currently working on helping students receive credit for prior learning. Feel free to contact him at mike.mutschelknaus@roch.edu.

Lindsay Noren

Lindsay Noren is an upper-grade elementary teacher in Houston, Texas. With a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, she plans to become a reading specialist to work with both students and teachers. She also documents her experiences in the classroom at her blog, *My Life as a Third Grade Teacher*.

Sonja Kay Olson

Sonja teaches tenth grade English (and, occasionally, other interesting classes) at Johnson High School in Saint Paul. She earned her MAEd from Hamline University with an emphasis in Urban Education. She would like to thank her writing group and the 2012 Minnesota Writing Project cohort for their insight and collegiality. Sonja believes she has the best of both worlds by living in exciting, biker-friendly Minneapolis while teaching in the bookish, referendum-friendly Saint Paul.

Jennifer Peterson

Jennifer earned her B.A. in English and M.Ed. in English Education at the University of Minnesota, where her interest in adolescent literacy led to the study of the role of motivation and engagement in reading comprehension. Since completing her M.Ed degree, she has earned her K-12 Reading Specialist license, and most recently, the Teaching Writing and Critical Literacy graduate certificate in conjunction with the Minnesota Writing Project at the U of M. She is currently an English/Language Arts and Strategic Reading teacher at Dakota Hills Middle School in Eagan.

Kim Socha

Kim Socha, Ph.D., is an English instructor at Normandale Community College. She has journal publications in the areas of social justice pedagogy, surrealism, and Latino/a literature. She is the author of *Women, Destruction, and the Avant-Garde* (Rodopi, 2011) and co-editor of *Confronting Animal Exploitation* (McFarland, April 2013). Her next book—about animal advocacy and secularism—will be published by Freethought House in 2014. Aside from her love of zombie books, movies, and television shows, Kim is also an activist in the areas of animal liberation and juvenile justice.

Martin Warren

Martin Warren is an associate professor of English at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, where he has taught for 14 years. He is a medievalist who, besides teaching medieval literature, enjoys teaching speculative fiction, introductory linguistics, and literary theory. He is the author of *Asceticism in the Christian Transformation of Self in Margery Kempe, William Thorpe, and John Rogers*, which is published by Edwin Mellen Press. An example of his scholarship in speculative fiction is: "Is God in Charge?: Mary Doria Russell's *The Sparrow*, Deconstruction, and Theodicy," published in the *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*. He is presently working on a new edition and translation of the Pearl poet's text, *Patience*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF 2013 MINNESOTA CONFERENCES

MNWE CONFERENCE NORMADALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA APRIL 4-5

We have a great conference on “Writing Culture” and many other practices and ideas waiting for you April 4-5. You can register at the door at Normandale College in Bloomington, Minn., just southwest of Minneapolis. This is our fifth annual conference. We expect 150-200 people, and we have scheduled more great breakouts than ever before. They feature short presentations of new practices coupled with plenty of discussion in small groups. In addition, we have two plenary sessions at 9 am each day: “The State of Writing in the Upper Midwest” on Thursday, and “Creative Writing in the Upper Midwest” on Friday.

This year’s lunchtime keynotes likewise feature pedagogy and writing on Thurs., and creative writing on Friday. Thursday’s keynote is by nationally well-known and respected cultural composition experts Bruce Horner & Min-Zhan Lu from the University of Louisville. Friday’s keynote is by recent American Book Award poet Ed Bok Lee of Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The conference is within fifteen minutes’ drive of the Mall of America, downtown Minneapolis, and the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport. Mall of America, the largest indoor mall in the United States, offers many family and individual entertainment and restaurant options, as does the area just north of Normandale College near I-494. For more information or to register, please go to www.MnWE.org.

Questions: e-mail David Beard,,
UM-Duluth, dbeard@d.umn.edu.

MCTE SPRING CONFERENCE AIRPORT HILTON BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA APRIL 11-12

Urban, rural, struggling, gifted, suburban... Somali, African-American, Hispanic, German, Euro-American . . . gay, straight, Christian, atheist, Muslim are but a few of the adjectives that might describe our diverse Minnesota students. How might we connect with them all as we consider the Common Core standards and meaningful education? Join us April 11 and 12 at the Airport Hilton in Bloomington as we grow in our understanding of students, national standards, and promising classroom practices.

Thursday

- **Workshop: Linda Christensen**
author - *Reading, Writing, Rising Up ~ Teaching for Joy and Justice*
- **Lunch: Ed Bok Lee**
poet - *Whorls*, winner of the 2012 American Book Award for Poetry

Friday

- **Workshop: Richard Beach & Amanda Thein**
authors - *Teaching to Exceed the English Language Arts Common Core Standards*
- **Lunch: Wing Young Huie**, visual artist & **Dessa**, spoken word, hip-hop artist, singer

CALL FOR PAPERS: 2014 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.

We will publish on all topics for English teachers of all age groups. However, preference in publication will be given to these three topics, all of which need more representation in *MEJ*:

- Classroom technology.
- Classroom diversity.
- Elementary (K-6) pedagogy.

DUE DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR 2014 ISSUE: DECEMBER 15, 2013.

(The 2014 issue should come out by April 2014.) Authors should be informed of the status of their submissions by January 15, 2014. 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.