



**The Society of Akron Graduate
English Scholars
Presents the Third Annual Interdisciplinary Conference**

Culture & Environment



**Thursday, March 5th 2015
The University of Akron
Student Union Rooms 310 & 312
Ballroom B**

Acknowledgements

This interdisciplinary conference was made possible by the support and contributions from the members of the Society of Akron Graduate English Scholars, who attend meetings and fundraisers involved in running this event.

Special recognition to the SAGES officers: Emily Tara (President), Rebecca Ligon (Vice President), Michelle Holzworth (Secretary and Conference Co-Chair), Britni Williams (Treasurer). Emily and Rebecca provided crucial materials and planning procedures for the conference committee to use and follow, and in the case of Britni, our incredibly hardworking treasurer, we have funds not only for this conference, but for next year's conference. Thank you all for your phenomenal leadership.

Of course, this event would not have been possible without the diligent efforts of Maya Cope-Crisfield (Conference Chair), and the help of Heather Kindle (Conference Co-Chair) and William McSuley (Conference-Co-Chair), all of whom collaborated in every aspect of this conference, as needed: planning, advertising, and fire-extinguishing.

Many thanks to Dr. Hillary Nunn, our faculty advisor, for her continued support and dedication to this organization and this project. Her insight and guidance keeps SAGES in the green (pun absolutely intended).

We would also like to thank: David Beach, Megan Randles, Thea Ledendecker, Dr. Joseph Ceccio, Doug Kukta, Valerie Cox, and our moderators, Dr. Philathia Bolton, Dr. Patrick Chura, Bob Pope, and Eric Grand.

10:00AM - 11:15AM:

Gendered Voice & Social Action and Advocacy

(Student Union 310)

Tess Henthorne

Uncovering the Unpublished: Construction, Publication, and
Exploration of Gladys Fornell's *Montel*

Mary Maxfield

History Retweeting Itself: Imperial Feminist Appropriations
of "Bring Back Our Girls"

Will McSuley

The Societal Effects of Gender Labels

Literary Focus: Portrayed Dynamics of Humans and Nature

(Student Union 312)

Kevin Kane

Ecocritical Reading of "House of Asterion"

Maya Cope-Crisford

Ecocritical Constructions of the 'Other' in W. B. Yeats'
The Stolen Child

Maria Alberto

Environment and Cultural Emergence in Robert A. Heinlein's *The
Moon is a Harsh Mistress*

11:30AM - 12:45PM:

The “Where” in Cultural Awareness
(Student Union 310)

Carol Wardell

“Cannibalizing Commodities”: Hawthorne’s Gingerbread in *The House of The Seven Gables*

Mitch Ploskonka

“Hail to the Goof God: Historicizing Dance Marathons in Horace McCoy’s *They Shoot Horses, Don’t They?*”

Anoud Al-Tarawneh

John Dos Passos’ Historicizing Message in *The Big Money*: Children in Families having a Capitalist Parent are “a lost generation”

Charlotte Fiehn

“[A]mong the ruins”: Milton, Lawrence, and the Environment of Post-War Culture

Changing Climates of Youth Psyche
(Student Union 312)

Britni Williams

The Uncanny, Narcissism, and Identity in Neil Gaiman’s *Coraline*

Amy Baird

Entering the Academy through the Window: Using Multigenre to Situate Academic Discourse

Devan Murphy

“The Neverland as an Attempt to Return to the Womb: A Reading of the Nature of Rules and Children’s Responses to Them in Barrie’s *Peter and Wendy*, Using Chesterton’s ‘On the Romance of Childhood’ as a Template

2:30PM - 3:30PM:

The Social Landscape of Material Philosophy

(Student Union 310)

Erin Mulligan

Embodied Environmentalism: Veganism in American Culture

Rauslynn Boyd

5 Hour Energy and the Protestant Work Ethic: An Ideological Criticism

Michelle Holzworth

A Matter of Medium: Comparing Writing Community Locations

Jimin Cha

The Arts Revitalization Policy and the Artists' Community

Situating Place Amid Craft

(Student Union 312)

Sophie Hamad

"The Living Soil"

Holly Brown

"Summited" poems

Daniel Cleary

"Slavic Village: A Meditation"

Keynote Address

A most wicked problem: A conversation about climate change and moral responsibility

By David Beach
Student union Ballroom B
4:00PM - 5:00PM

Planners talk about “wicked problems” that defy simple solutions. Climate change may be the most wicked problem fo all. It poses an existential threat to human civilization, yet political change to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions remains difficult to achieve. How can we live up to our moral responsibility—as individuals and as citizens working together—to address this issue?



David Beach, director of GreenCityBlueLake Institute at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, has been a visionary for sustainability and the environment in Northeast Ohio for more than 25 years. He has been responsible for initiating numerous organizations and projects, including EcoCity Cleveland, the Citizen’s Bioregional Plan, Greater Ohio Policy Center, the City of Cleveland’s office of Sustainability, and the Cleveland Ecovillage. His writing, editing, and public speaking have helped to shape major civic issues such as regional land use, watershed planning, transportation priorities, and the need to reduce carbon emissions.

Presenters

Maria Alberto is an M.A. candidate in the Literature program at Cleveland State University. Her research interests concern the intersections of canonicity and culture, and she has written about transmedia and popular culture. She is currently working on a book chapter and on her thesis.

Amy Baird is a graduate student at the University of Akron getting her Masters in English Composition with the TESOL endorsement. Her interests include ESL, French, linguistics, and cooking.

Rauslynn Boyd is a Master's Degree Candidate (August 2015), in The School of Communication at The University of Akron. Specifically, she majors in Communication Studies with a focus in Cultural Criticism. Her writing interests include Race, Gender and Class Inequality, Black Feminism, Identity Construction of African American Females, and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. She is also a graduate teaching assistant, has taught Introduction to Public Speaking, Effective Oral Communication, and lectured on communication topics such as, Mass Communication, Intercultural Communication and Persuasion. She holds a B.A. in Business and Organizational Communication, 2013.

Holly Brown graduated from St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY with a bachelors in English in 2014. She is currently a poetry candidate at the NEOMFA. Born and raised on the coast of Massachusetts, she often finds herself writing poems about the ocean and buoyancy, but also insects, produce, mountains, and how to climb them. She eats and writes about food often, now formally for The Devil Strip (current blog, future magazine, website, etc. about Akron music, art, and culture). She lives in Akron with her tooth-less, claw-less, meow-less, fifteen-year-old cat, Hedwig.

Daniel J. Cleary is an Associate Professor of English and Writing Program Director at Lorain County Community College, where he received the 2013 Faculty Excellence Award. He holds a BA and MA in English from the University of Dayton and a PhD in English (Rhetoric and Composition) from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dan also is Executive Director and President of the Northeast Ohio Community Outreach Project, a nonprofit organization that brings literacy instruction to inmates in Ohio's prisons. He is currently serving a term on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Standing Committee on International Concerns and is the founder of the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) Two-Year Caucus. Dan reviews manuscripts for *WPA: Writing Program Administration* and presentations for the CWPA conference. His writings have appeared in or are forthcoming in venues such as *Literacy in Composition Studies*, *The North Coast Review*, *Journal of Writing Studies*, *Jenny*, and *Teaching English in the Two-Year College*. He is also the author of five children's books, four fiction titles and one nonfiction title, to be released by Kaeden Books in 2015. Dan is completing his MFA thesis at Cleveland State University through the NEOMFA.

Maya Cope-Crisford is an Ohio native. She attended the University of North Texas for her undergraduate degree in English, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. She is now a Graduate Assistant in the English department at the University of Akron, working on her Master's in Literature. After completing her Masters, Maya plans on pursuing a PhD in 18th-20th Century British Literature, with a focus on Romantic and Gothic Lit as well as an exploration of the ways in which scientific innovation affected the literature of the time. She currently lives in Akron with her 10-lb gladiator of a dog, Maximus, and hates writing short bios about herself. Unless it's about her travels. Or food. Maybe she should consider travel writing instead.

Charlotte Fiehn is an offer-holder at the University of Cambridge, England, as well as a graduate of the London School of Journalism. She currently attends as non-traditional student at the Harrisburg Area Community College. She has worked as a writer and editor for the last ten years. Her recent work includes a chapter on the political rhetoric of Elizabeth I in a study on global women in politics and a chapter on Henry James in a study of American writers in exile. She also is working on an extended study of the representation of gender in the works of Nathaniel Hawthorne, George Eliot, D.H. Lawrence, and various other British and American authors of the 19th and early 20th century.

Michelle Holzworth received a Bachelor's in English and an Adult and Young Adult Teaching License from Shawnee State University in 2013. She now is a Teaching Assistant at the University of Akron and pursues a Master's degree in English Composition. Her research interest include the concepts of voice, authority, and audience in writing, as well as the burgeoning fields of educational technology, digital humanities, and new media.

Kevin Kane is a second-year master's student at The University of Akron. He is on the English literature track, and he is also working towards a certificate in composition. He is primarily interested in spiritual texts and their attendant rhetorical problems.

Erin Mulligan graduated from Ramapo College of New Jersey with a BA in American Studies and History with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies in 2014. Erin currently pursues a Masters in the American Culture Studies program at Bowling Green State University. Erin also has a background in nineteenth-century American history, specifically women's history and Native American studies, but have shifted focus since arriving at BGSU. Currently I am researching veganism including vegan activism, vegan bodies, veganism in popular culture, and the conceptualization of vegan identities.

Devan Murphy is an undergrad at the University of Akron where she majors in English and minors in French and drawing. Her research interests include Victorian literature and children's and young adult literature.

Mitch Ploskonka completed his undergraduate studies at Centre College, where he gained his deep appreciation of Southern writers under the tutelage of Mark Rasmussen and Mark Lucas. Currently, Mitch is a graduate student at the University of Akron, pursuing his Master's degree in English literature. His interest continues in Southern Literature of which he has written on such authors as Larry Brown and Cormac McCarthy. He plans on continuing his academic career by pursuing a doctorate in English literature, to fulfill his passion of becoming a college professor.

Caroll Wardell is completing an MA in Literature at the University of Memphis and currently has a pending PhD application submitted. Her study is in American Literature, focusing on American Gothic and Slave Narratives. In particular her research is geared towards how these two genres interrogate and expose American small town ideology.

Britni Marie Williams is a graduate student at the University of Akron finishing her MA in literature, while teaching English Composition II. Her research interests include children's and young adult literature, and will be pursuing these interests in a Ph.D. program as soon as she decides which school she will attend. She also holds a BS in journalism and a BA in English from Kent State University. When she is not working on her thesis, she enjoys spending time with her fiancé and their three gerbils: Gizmo, Gadget, and Ginny.



The Society of Akron Graduate English Scholars

SAGES is a student organization open to all English graduate students of all tracks that focuses on helping all tracks develop professionally during their time at The University of Akron. We work to provide members with tools to help them publish, present, and prepare for the future.

This organization also strives to promote unity among its members by creating events, providing resources, and visiting places that will benefit the pursuits of each track (Composition, Fine Arts, and Literature).

Disclaimer: *This student organization is a registered student organization at The University of Akron. Registration shall not be construed as approval, endorsement, or sponsorship by The university of Akron of the student organization's publications, activities, actions, or positions.*

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