Brett Burkhart

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Burkhart for receiving a much deserved Outstanding Academic Advisor Award in CAS!

Joanna Rapf

Dr. Rapf attended the Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference in Atlanta March 30-April 2 and gave a paper entitled, "Polly Moran: A Bassoon in 'Hollywood’s Symphony of Sweet-Tuned Violins'."

Mia Martini

On March 31st, Dr. Martini presented "They can still be heroes: Working Class Soldiers and the American Dream" at the Texas Center for Working-Class Studies Conference.

Honoree Jeffers

Congratulations to Professor Jeffers who was nominated for the Oklahoma Book Award in Poetry for her latest book of poetry, The Glory Gets (Wesleyan, 2015)! A former student of hers, Jenny Yang Cropp—a graduate of OU—is nominated in the same category.

Rilla Askew

Professor Askew gave a reading and conducted a historical fiction workshop for the Douglas Anderson Writers Festival in Jacksonville, FL, on March 5; she gave a reading and presentation in honor of Women’s History Month at the OSU Edmond Low Library in Stillwater on March 7; a reading as Distinguished Visiting Author at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, KS, on March 24; and a reading and presentation from Fire in Beulah for Stillwater Public Library’s Two Books, One Community Big Read event on March 28. Finally, she was a Featured Author for the Scissortail Literary Festival at East Central University in Ada on March 31.
Native American Crossroads Film Festival

The theme this year is “Elements,” focused on natural resources, as well as elements that bring communities together or threaten to tear them apart. Water, earth, air, and fire figure in the imaginative, political, and ceremonial worlds of many of the short films that will be screened. Elements of substance abuse (think of the Breaking Bad logo!) connect the three featured evening screenings: The Seventh Fire, a documentary about gang culture on an Ojibwe reservation; The Last Saint, an action film from New Zealand about a Polynesian teen trying to stay out of his family’s “business” troubles; and Chasing the Light, an envelope-pushing drug comedy set in the American Southwest. The Festival will welcome the directors of each film, as well as Chris Eyre, director of the watershed American Indian film Smoke Signals.

With a host of films from all across the globe, including the Sámi from Norway, Aboriginal peoples from Australia, Maori and Tongan-Samoan peoples from New Zealand, the Ainu from Japan, and several Native tribes from Canada, Central and South America, the Festival will show the richness of Indigenous cultures, and illustrate how the issues the films take up, such as access to clean water, the protection of sacred sites, and maintaining cultural traditions, are geographically international and thematically universal in scope.

The Festival encourages American Indian filmmakers, especially those from Oklahoma, to tell their stories and offers them venues to do it. With the production classes and visiting filmmaker workshops now linked to the festival, students across campus, Native and non-Native, are making films and connecting with American Indian communities. We hope to see this trend continue!
Showcase Series

Dr. Seth Perlow delivered a lecture entitled, "Getting the News: William Carlos Williams and the Values of Techno-Science." Focusing on “Spring and All” and the early prose writings, Perlow argued that Williams's efforts to coordinate techno-scientific thinking and poetry’s “human knowledge” have been central to the afterlives of lyricism in experimental writing since the mid-twentieth century.

Tea with the Professor

This month Professor Rilla Askew hosted our tea.

Title: SASS AND COURAGE: Oklahoma’s Women Writers