Heid E. Erdrich
Speaks at 2010
Conference

Writer Heid E. Erdrich offered up a spectacular keynote address for the 2010 Undergraduate Conference for Critical and Creative Engagement in October. Winner of the 2009 Minnesota Book Award, Heid E. Erdrich has authored several books of poetry, including *Fishing for Myth*, New Rivers Press; *The Mother Tongue*, Salt Publishing; and *National Monuments*, Michigan State University Press. She also co-edited *Sister Nations: Native American Women on Community* from Minnesota Historical Society Press. Heid has received the Minnesota State Arts Board Fellowships and awards from The Loft Literary Center and the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers. Her degrees are from Dartmouth College and the Johns Hopkins University Writing Seminars. A member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibway, Heid grew up in Wahpeton, North Dakota.

Many of Erdrich’s poems, especially those in *National Monuments*, explore bodies, particularly bodies of indigenous women worldwide, as monuments — in life, in photos, in graves, in traveling exhibitions, even in plastic representations at the airport. Erdrich sometimes imagines what ancient bones would say if they could speak. Her poems remind us that we make monuments out of what remains and that monuments are actually our own imaginings of the meaning or significance of things that are, in themselves, silent. Erdrich’s readings left students pondering the histories of indigenous women.

One poignant poem read by Erdrich spoke of the bodies of the indigenous people left on exhibit in museums, displayed for all to see as though they, too, did not deserve a proper and permanent resting place. Erdrich calls into question whether our curiosity for history is taking precedence over the rights of the people we display as if they were only objects.

Kind and personable, Heid E. Erdrich was very generous with her time and attention while visiting UWRF.

Students Gain Valuable Skills at Literary Conference

The literary conference has been a great opportunity for many students at UWRF to build confidence in their writing and public-speaking skills.
Students from UWRF, including Beau Moriarty, Tiffany Hallin, Sean Brunn, Amber Pechacek, and Gloria Meyer, gave presentations on a variety of literary topics including *Dracula*, *Hamlet*, Kurt Vonnegut, *Richard III*, Flannery O’Connor, as well as a variety of other topics.

After receiving the opportunity to speak at the Literary Conference, many students have a strong sense of pride in their writing ability; they also go on to national conferences and to their desired profession with a new confidence in the art of public speaking.

**The Future of The UWRF Literary Conference**

Dr. Michelle Parkinson lined up a superb keynote speaker for the 2011 Literary Conference. Jonathan Sawday offered to speak to students, faculty, alumni, and community members.

However, due to circumstances out of our control, the 2011 Literary Conference has been cancelled.

The budget for special programs is never large enough to fund as many programs as the University wants to run; however, some programs are especially important and beneficial to the students and the Department.

The English Department Literary Conference is one such opportunity. Many students discuss a particular keynote speaker from the Literary Conference for years, and many of those keynote speakers are responsible for greatly influencing and encouraging new students both within the English Department and from other majors.

Because of budgetary strain, the conference will be put on hold until new sources of funding can be found. If you would be interested in helping to fund the 2012 Literary Conference, please contact Dr. Parkinson for more information at michelle.parkinson@uwrf.edu.

**Ten Students Teach in Taiwan**

For the fifth year, ten UWRF students—most from the TESOL major—will be traveling to Taiwan this summer to teach English to Taiwanese college students under the guidance of Dr. Robyne Tiedeman.

Shih Hsin University in Taipei provides UWRF students airfare, housing, and meals during their three-week stay in Taiwan. Students have the opportunity not only to teach English speaking, reading, and writing skills, but to make life-long Chinese friends as well.

These ten UWRF students will gain valuable teaching experience while exploring Taiwan’s culture and history. Students are given some opportunity to travel in Taiwan during their three weeks and can meet and interact with the students and faculty after class and on weekends.

After each hour-and-a-half class, students are debriefed on how well their lessons went, how well the students responded to the lesson, and what the student “teachers” can focus on during the next lesson.

This program has offered many TESOL and English Education majors the opportunity to gain practical teaching experience while immersing themselves in Taiwan’s culture. We can expect another successful and enjoyable trip this year.

**Dr. Jenny Brantley Attends the WNBA Award Ceremony**

Dr. Brantley was invited to the Women's National Book Award presentation in New York City on March 10-15, 2011.

Past winners of the Women’s National Book Award include writers such as Doris Kearns Goodwin, Pearl Buck, Eleanor Roosevelt, Pat Schroeder, Barbara Bush, and other luminaries.

Masha Hamilton, a fellow writer and friend of Dr. Brantley, received the award this year. Masha Hamilton has been a keynote speaker at the UWRF Undergraduate Conference and visiting writer holding master classes with selected creative writing majors. The event, held in The Center for Fiction / Mercantile Library, founded in 1820, is the only organization in the United States devoted solely to the vital art of fiction.

Dr. Brantley was honored to be one of the selected guests at the ceremony.
Dr. Nicholas Karolides’ Banned Books, 3rd Edition

Dr. Karolides, in collaboration with three other authors, is set to release the third edition of Banned Books: Literature Suppressed on Political Grounds. The other three editions are based upon social, religious, and sexual grounds. The latest edition spotlights 100 works that have been banned due to their political perspectives.

The latest edition highlights twelve new works that have been banned. Snow, by Orhan Pamuk from Turkey, is a novel about a young man who is exiled for his controversial political views. Another novel, The Corpse Walker: Real Life Stories, China from the Bottom Up by Liao Yiwi of China, depicts an entanglement of people and political points of view. The protagonist is shot when he returns to Germany, where he was once a prisoner. Karolides selected each work to depict a unique political reason for the banning of the work.

Kiss of the Spider Woman, by Manuel Puig of Argentina, is a novel as well as a play depicting a political prisoner who tells his new cellmate how to get in touch with his political group. The novel was banned due to the political position on homosexuality.

In The Appointment, written by Herta Muller, the hardships and humiliations of Communist Romania are on display. The narrator, an unnamed young dress-factory worker of the post-World War II generation, has been summoned for questioning by the secret police; she has been caught sewing notes into men’s suits destined for Italy, with the desperate message "marry me" along with her address. Accused of prostitution in the workplace (and told she is lucky the charge is not treason), she loses her job, and her life becomes subject to the whims of Major Albu, who summons her for random interrogation sessions. Her major preoccupation is holding on to her sanity.

Dr. Karolides’ passion for the topic shines through when he talks about these books and the reasons that they have been banned. He explains that readers must have a complete understanding of why a book was or is banned in order to fully recognize the political implications of the work.

Every text examined in the book is hand-selected by Karolides, and his dedication to the issue of censorship makes the work well worth reading.

Checkmark Books Publishing is also set to publish the latest edition of Karolides’ 120 Banned Books: Censorship Histories of World Literature later this year. The work follows the same format as Banned Books: Literature Suppressed on Political Grounds; however, it covers all four grounds for banning books: social, religious, sexual, and political grounds. The work gives readers a broad overview of the reasons books are banned around the world.
Dr. Jim Mulvey will be retiring from the University of Wisconsin – River Falls this May. Dr. Mulvey has been a professor at UWRF for the past thirty-one years and has accomplished great things during his career.

In 1973, Dr. Mulvey received his Bachelor’s in English Education from Saint Mary’s College. After completing his Bachelor’s degree, Mulvey went on to receive a Master’s and Ph.D. from Marquette University.

In the fall of 1980, Dr. Mulvey accepted a position at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls, where he went on to be recognized by the University of Wisconsin system as an outstanding teacher. He was also named twice as the “Arts and Humanities Teacher of the Year,” in 1995 and 2007. Two sabbaticals were awarded to Dr. Mulvey, in 1999 and 2008, to study Ernest Hemingway.

Dr. Mulvey has published numerous articles on Ernest Hemingway throughout his career, as well as articles on the topics of censorship, pedagogy, composition theory, and children’s literature.

The opportunity arose for Dr. Mulvey to teach with the “Wisconsin in Scotland” program in the fall of 1989.

Dr. Mulvey has not only been an outstanding professor at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls, he has also served as the District Representative of the Wisconsin Humanities Council, Director of the American Studies Program, Faculty Athletic Representative, and Faculty Senator. Dr. Mulvey has also served as the Acting Chair of the English Department. Most recently, Dr. Mulvey took on the role of Interim Assistant Dean in the College of Arts and Science.

Dr. Mulvey has created many great memories at UWRF that he will take with him into retirement. Some of his favorite memories include teaching his favorite classes, including the American Studies Seminar on the 1960s, the Major Authors course on Hemingway, and Modern American Fiction. He will also never forget going to Pigeon Lake with his fellow English professors. Dr. Mulvey will miss working alongside his friends and colleagues at UWRF as well as his students. He will miss the commotion and business of university life.

Dr. Mulvey looks forward to having more time to spend with his wife, Ann. Dr. Mulvey and Ann plan on leaving behind the blustery Wisconsin winters in order to be closer to their daughter, Kate, and their son, Ben, in San Diego. They look forward to having the time to spend long days on the golf course and having all of the time in the world to travel.

Dr. Ron Neuhaus Retirement

In 1966, Dr. Neuhaus came to UWRF to teach a two-credit “Writing Poetry” class. When he first arrived at UWRF, the Creative Writing program was only offered as a minor; however, the Creative Writing program now offers both a major and a minor thanks to the hard work of Dr. Neuhaus and Dr. Jenny Brantley. The Creative Writing program continues to attract more and more outstanding students due to the caliber of the program and passion of its professors.

Dr. Neuhaus remarks that the UWRF Creative Writing program has grown and succeeded over the past several years because it meets the needs of the students, whether they go on to graduate school, become professional writers or editors, or simply write for the love of seeing words on the page. Dr.
Neuhaus has learned many great lessons about how to be a challenging, encouraging, and understanding professor.

One of Dr. Neuhaus’ most profound memories about what it means to be a professor changed the way he approached teaching forever. Caring for his ailing mother over a spring break, Dr. Neuhaus worked hard to balance the time with his mother and grading essays. This experience helped him to realize that every student faces his or her own struggles and that sometimes life gets in the way of university deadlines, even for the best of students. While he will greatly miss teaching and his students, Dr. Neuhaus plans to continue teaching karate and work on his own writing.

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New English Education Faculty

A search for a new Secondary Education teacher, under the leadership of Dr. David Furniss, has resulted in the hiring of Dr. Catherine Ross-Stroud, a native of Milwaukee, who received her B.S. from UW-Milwaukee, M.A. from Michigan State, and Ph.D. from Illinois State University. She currently teaches at Cleveland State University. Dr. Ross-Stroud also spent seven years teaching both middle and high school. She will join the English Department at UWRF in Fall 2011.

Dr. Ross-Stroud has published extensively on African-American writers, including a book entitled Janet McDonald: The Original Project Girl (2008). She is a state representative to Assembly on Literature for Adolescents: ALAN and an active participant in NCTE.

Dr. Greta Gaard Attends Taiwan Ecocriticism Conference

Dr. Gaard visited Taiwan and attended the International Conference on Ecological Discourse at Tamking University on December 16th-18th, 2010.

The event brought together ecocritics, nature writers, eco-activists, and scholars to examine the influences of culture on ecocriticism. Participants from all over the world, from China, Korea, Japan, India, Turkey, Spain, Australia, Philippines, and the United States, came together for the event.

Numerous keynote presentations provoked thoughtful responses, debates, and a general sense of urgency about the activist relevance of our ecocritical work. Ursula Heise gave a presentation entitled “A Distant Reading of Wolves,” while Scott Slovic presented “Authentic East and South Asian Ecocriticisms.” Patrick Murphy gave a powerful presentation on hydropower dams and climate, thus introducing a range of conference themes and foci.

Many diverse presentations were given on subjects such as wolves, eco-criticisms, and the emergence of environmental justice. The participants learned about pastoral poetry—poetry in China contemplating young workers lamenting about their labors and suffering in industrial factories. Such poetry brought to the fore environmental injustices of worldwide proportions.

Breakout sessions addressed a range of topics, from queer eco-poets to betel nut girls, animals in Australian literature and animalist folklore in Cambodia, Minameta narratives on food, a comparative approach to ecofeminist toxic narratologies, wilderness, and many diverse perspectives on Buddhism.

Dr. Gaard plans on taking the knowledge she gained from the conference and applying it to her new courses on ecocriticism.
writing and writing from a green perspective.

Conferences such as the Ecocriticism Conference offer many professors excellent resources for new, relevant, current, and interesting topics for students at UWRF.

**Students Participate in National Conference of Undergraduate Research**

Seventeen English students travelled to New York to Itasca College for the opportunity to present research, poetry, and literary nonfiction at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) hosted by Ithaca College from March 31 to April 2, 2011.

**Todd Mueske** presented his essay, “A Certain Beauty.”

**Alissa Thompson** presented her essay, “Green Robots Line the Counter.”

**Gloria Meyer** presented her essay, “Silence is Acceptance.”

**Kelly Bryant** presented her essay, “Walking Around the Flat Spaces.”

**Brandon Paddock** presented his essay, “The Nature of Identity in The Lieutenant of Inishmore.”

**Jason Kenison** presented his essay, “Unsex Me Now: The Patriarchal Fear of Motherhood in Macbeth.”

**Britney Brouwer** presented her essay, “Cather, Impressionism, and the City.”

**Amber Pechacek** presented her essay, “Michael Longley’s ‘The Butchers’ and his Classical Interpretations of Contemporary Problems.”

**Matthew Davis** presented his essay, “Unifying Polarities: Bridging Worlds Through William Butler Yeats’s ‘Sailing to Byzantium.’”

**Ashley Steiner** presented her essay, “Before the Genocide The European Colonization of Rwanda.”

**Kaitlin Wenda** presented her essay, “Physical Appearance: Literary Device or Social Commentary.”

**Harmony Hanson** presented her essay, “Revealing Perspectives in ‘Good Country People.’”

**Emily Syring** presented her essay, “More Than Just Sex: The Societal Value of Lawrence’s Lady Chatterley’s Lover.”

**Alumni News**

**John Weisbrod** is the new 7th grade language arts teacher at Virginia High School in Virginia, MN.

**Sarah Sorensen** graduated two years ago. She is currently employed in an environment that fosters creativity. She is working at Meredith Corporation (a magazine publisher responsible for Better Homes and Gardens) in Des Moines, with aspirations to become a copy editor.

**Rachel Zitzow** is currently a middle school ELL teacher at Community School of Excellence.

**Maddie Baird** is teaching (1st year) at St. Croix Prep Academy.

**Molly Ann Magestro** received her Ph.D. in Literature this spring from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

**Kyle Rieman** has graduated from law school, passed the Wisconsin bar, and is now practicing law in Merrill, Wisconsin.

**Kim Hall Brinker** and husband
Joe just added a new baby to the family - Will Kenneth - on April 8, 2011.

**Tom Steffen** will soon be moving to New York to further pursue his career as a stand-up comedian.

**Todd Mueske** is attending graduate school at the University of Colorado - Ft. Collins, studying creative writing.

**Write To Us!**

If the alumni news seems incomplete, it’s probably because we haven’t heard from you. We like to know all about the developments in your life, including changes in career, family, and location. Send your latest news to English@uwrf.edu

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**Kelly Aherns’ Continued Contributions**

Kelly Aherns, a graduate of UWRF, continues to make an impact within the Professional Writing minor. Last spring Kelly visited UWRF to speak to Dr. Moline’s editing class. She shared her experiences of working as a Technical Writer and Marketing Labeling Coordinator for LSS Data Systems.

After speaking with a number of current students interested in internships with LSS, Kelly went to work to create an internship program for current UWRF students.

Dr. Moline announced an internship opportunity created by Kelly and her company for the summer of 2011. Current Professional Writing students are applying for excellent opportunities such as this one in order to gain valuable hands-on experience in technical writing skills.

Current Professional Writing students thank Kelly for her ongoing contributions to and support of the Professional Writing minor at UWRF.

**Theresa Racanelli**

After graduating in December of 2008, Theresa Racanelli went on to teach Spanish and ESL to secondary students in Cumberland, Wisconsin. She taught for the 2008/2009 school year before taking on a substitute position at the Watertown, Wisconsin middle school. After gaining valuable experience as a teacher, Theresa moved to Columbus, Indiana in November of 2009 to be closer to family, especially her twin nephews.

Theresa now works at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Young Adult Ministry.

**Dr. Duane Roen**

Professor of English at Arizona State University, Dr. Duane Roen serves as Head of Interdisciplinary and Liberal Studies in the School of Letters and Science. Roen serves as Secretary of the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) as well as Vice-President of the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA). He has written extensively about writing curricula, pedagogy, and assessment; writing program administration; writing across the curriculum; and collaboration, among other topics.

In addition to more than 200 articles, chapters, and conference papers, Duane has published eight books including *Composing Our Lives in Rhetoric and Composition: Stories About the Growth of a Discipline* (with Theresa Enos and Stuart Brown); *Strategies for Teaching First-Year Composition* (NCTE) (with Lauren Yena, Susan K. Miller, Veronica Pantojá, and Eric Waggoner); *Views from the Center: The CCCC Charis’ Addresses, 1977-2005*.

Dr. Roen attributes his current perspectives on human diversity and its role in CCCC and NCTE to the education he received at UWRF. Dr. Nick Karolides set the stage for his master’s degree thesis, “Culture Diversity in American Life.”

Prior to attending UWRF, Roen had little experience with diversity; however, his experience at UWRF became his inspiration for continued studies.

Dr. Roen continues to work closely with the CCCC and many other committees to help students develop the skills and knowledge that will serve them well in a diverse world.
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