

# Idaho MFA Newsletter

Spring 2013

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**3<sup>rd</sup> years:** Check out the thesis checklist on page 3

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Welcome to spring semester. In this issue of our newsletter, we outline the university's logistical requirements in order to prevent missed deadlines and confusion. If we miss a topic you would like us to cover in our next newsletter, please send an email to [laurap@uidaho.edu](mailto:laurap@uidaho.edu) or [dheckman@uidaho.edu](mailto:dheckman@uidaho.edu).

## Graduation Checklist

### Year One

**Fall semester:** Introduce yourself to as many people as possible, start thinking about who you may want on your thesis committee

**Spring semester:** [Appoint your major professor](#)

### Year Two

**Fall semester:** [Appoint your thesis committee](#)

**Spring semester:** Start your [study plan](#) via Vandalweb.

### Year Three

**Fall semester:** Revise [study plan](#); review [format requirements for thesis](#); submit application to graduate (on Vandalweb)

**Spring semester:** 1) Submit [Request to Proceed with Final Defense form](#) at least 10 days prior to your defense 2) You will receive a "Report of Final Defense" form to be used for grading purposes at your defense, which your major professor will return to the College of Graduate Studies after the defense 3) Submit thesis to the College of Graduate Studies; revise your CV

## Travel Awards and Changes

While previously Master's students were only allowed to apply for one travel award, students may now apply for a travel award grant once per fiscal year. Priority will be given to students who are applying for the first time and students who are presenting or involved somehow in the conference. The next GPSA travel deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup> and the following deadline will be on March 15<sup>th</sup>.



### *An interview with alumna Kendall Sand (fiction '09)*

**Q:** Where has writing taken you since you left Idaho?

**A:** To Hollywood! For the past two and a half years, I've been working for a production company called Fake Empire, created by Josh Schwartz and Stephanie Savage, who've produced TV shows like *The O.C.*, *Chuck*, *Gossip Girl*, and *Hart of Dixie*. I am Stephanie's assistant. I also had the good fortune to get in to the Warner Bros. Writers Workshop, so now I'm in TV writing boot camp, and in the spring, with any luck, I'll get my first staff writing gig on a TV show.

## Study Plan

There will be a study plan workshop on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm in TLC 123. We will go through the process of updating the study plan together. Computers will be available in the lab.

### Study plan basics:

Your study plan should be completed by the end of your second year. You will revise, if necessary, during the fall semester of your 3rd year.

Include all your courses. That's right: include your techniques course, your thesis credits, as well as your expected final year courses.

Your study plan is created via VandalWeb. There is a step-by-step guide [here](#). Work with major professor or Doug Heckman if you have questions.

### MFA Study Plan Template

**PART ONE:** The 15 credits in grad level creative writing workshops

**PART TWO:** The 15 credits in grad-level literature courses

**PART THREE:** The techniques course

**PART FOUR:** The three DVW credits (Notes: list which semesters you took these courses)

**PART FIVE:** The 9 thesis credits (Notes: list which semesters you took E500, & credits)

**PART SIX:** The 9 elective credits

If you have extra credits (such as seven workshops), you should put the extra credits in the most appropriate field. For example, include six of the seven workshops in your workshops section, plus one in the electives section.

## Thesis Checklist

- ✓ Have Ashley Bogar in the College of Graduate Studies complete a review of your thesis for formatting errors before submitting to CLASS. Format checks must be done before finals week of the semester in which you wish to graduate.
- ✓ All changes or edits by the Major Professor and committee members must be made before submitting to CLASS.
- ✓ The thesis is submitted to the Dean's Office with the signature page complete except for Dean Aiken's signature and Dean Chen's signature.
- ✓ Kristine Roby, our college advisor, will complete a brief review before Dean Aiken signs it and will contact you to let you know of any changes or edits to make before the final two copies on bond paper are made for the College of Graduate Studies.
- ✓ The bonded document is due in the College of Graduate Studies within six (6) months after the defense.

General problems students had last year (also outlined in [The Handbook](#)) included:

- 1) Incorrect or inconsistent margins. Margins should be 1" on the right, 1" on the bottom, and either 1.25" or 1.5" on the left. The top margin is determined by placing the page number 3/4" from the top edge of the paper and beginning the text a double space after the page number.
- 2) Names of committee members misspelled on the signature page.
- 3) Page numbers listed in the Table of Contents were not correct.
- 4) The page number of the Table of Contents should be included in the Table of Contents. All preliminary pages, except the title page, should be included in the Table of Contents, and they all should have numbers except for the title page.
- 5) Do not submit the thesis on bond paper until after Dean Aiken has signed the document and any typos or errors have been corrected. Then, two copies are made on bond paper and submitted to the College of Graduate Studies.
- 6) You must be registered for Engl 500 in the term in which you defend and submit your document, even if they are separate terms. All degree requirements must be completed by the deadline for you to be granted a degree for a specific term.

### *Kendall Sand (cont.)*

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**Q:** How has your experience in the Idaho MFA helped you achieve your goals?

**A:** In a lot of ways, the Idaho MFA is the reason I'm achieving my goals. I got my job in large part because of Joshua Ferris, who visited Moscow as the PEN/Hemingway winner while I was a grad student. A few years later, he put me in touch with Stephanie, which was the break of a lifetime.

The Idaho MFA also taught me how to talk about story. I'd never written a script in my life, but I figured out that good storytelling is good storytelling, no matter what. And I had the vocabulary and the understanding of craft to contribute meaningfully to conversations. When I did start writing scripts, I had no idea how to use the formatting software (I still don't, really), but I knew how characters should talk to each other. I knew how to give a scene a sense of resolution.

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## Helpful Links

### Facebook pages:

[University of Idaho MFA](#)

[Fugue Literary Journal](#)

[The Occasional Reading Series](#)

### Other links:

[Fugue Literary Journal](#) (official website)

[College of Graduate Studies: Forms](#)

[Association of Writers and Writing Programs](#)

## Upcoming Events

<b>Rebecca Solnit's DVW week</b>	January 28-February 1
<b>Rebecca Solnit's public reading</b>	January 30
<b>The Occasional Reading Series</b>	February 9
<b>Thesis defense scheduling</b>	February 10-16
<b>EWU-UI MFA get-together</b>	February 16
<b>Jonathan Johnson public reading</b>	February 20
<b>Symposium for Ashley Peel, Shawn Rubinfeld, and Brian Scullion</b>	February 23
<b>AWP Boston</b>	March 6-9
<b>GPSA Travel Award deadline</b>	March 15
<b>Brandon Schrand public reading</b>	March 20
<b>Symposium for Megan Mills-Rittmann and Wendy Silva</b>	March 23
<b>Robert Wrigley public reading</b>	April 1
<b>Adam Johnson's DVW week</b>	April 8-12
<b>Adam Johnson's public reading</b>	April 10
<b>Study Plan workshop</b>	April 19
<b>Flight of Writers (Fugue benefit)</b>	April 26
<b>Ron McFarland public reading</b>	May 1

### JANUARY 2013

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### FEBRUARY 2013

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### MARCH 2013

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### APRIL 2013

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