This Week in English | February 26 – March 4, 2018

**Preview of Eugene Lim on March 8**

**The first New Writing Series event of the spring semester takes place a week from Thursday on March 8, at 4:30 in Stewart Commons 104. It will feature fiction writer Eugene Lim, who is** the author of the novels [*Fog & Car*](http://www.ellipsispress.com/2008/03/30/fog-car-by-eugene-lim/) (Ellipsis Press, 2008), [*The Strangers*](http://store.hyperallergic.com/products/the-strangers-eugene-lim) (Black Square Editions, 2013) and [*Dear Cyborgs*](http://us.macmillan.com/dearcyborgs/eugenelim/9780374537111/) (FSG Originals, 2017). His writings have appeared in [*Dazed*](http://www.dazeddigital.com/artsandculture/article/20930/1/read-eugene-lims-subtle-take-on-sci-fi), [*Fence*](http://www.spdbooks.org/Producte/9781934200551/fence-vol-14-nos-1-and-2-fall-2011.aspx), [*Little Star*](http://littlestarjournal.com/issues/), [*The Denver Quarterly*](http://www.du.edu/denverquarterly/past/index.html), [*The Brooklyn Rail*](http://brooklynrail.org/contributor/eugene-lim), [*Jacket2*](http://jacket2.org/reviews/detour-more-traditional-paths-composition), [*Gigantic*](http://thegiganticmag.com/magazine/articleDetail.php?p=articleDetail&id=212), [*Your Impossible Voice*](http://www.yourimpossiblevoice.com/eugene-lim/), [*The Coming Envelope*](https://www.bookthug.ca/proddetail.php?prod=201414), [*Everyday Genius*](http://www.everyday-genius.com/2013/04/eugene-lim.html), [*Vestiges*](http://blacksunlit.com/vestiges_02-ennui/) and elsewhere. Pessimist of the intellect by night; by day, he’s house librarian at the [Charles Xavier School for the Greatly Responsibled](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunter_College_High_School). He runs [Ellipsis Press](http://www.ellipsispress.com/), and lives in Jackson Heights, NY, with [Joanna and Felix](http://www.eugenelim.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/blurry-joanna-and-felix.jpg).

In its [starred review](https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-374-53711-1) of *Dear Cyborgs*, *Publishers Weekly* wrote:

Two radically different story lines—one involving a short-lived friendship between two Asian-American boys in the Midwest, the other an ongoing philosophical debate amongst a team of superheroes—are cleverly tied together in this short, sly, unorthodox novel… The core relationships, whether they’re between estranged childhood friends or opinionated superhumans, are real and profoundly moving.

**Stephen E. King Chair Events on March 6 and 7**

*Professor* [*Caroline Bicks*](https://english.umaine.edu/people/caroline-bicks/) *writes with news of two related events:*

Please join me on Wednesday, March 7th at 7pm in Minsky Recital Hall to welcome our [first speaker](https://umaine.edu/news/blog/2018/02/16/irelands-magdalene-laundries-focus-king-chair-lecture-umaine/) in the [Stephen E. King Chair](https://umaine.edu/stephenekingchair/) lecture series, now in its inaugural year.

Professor [James Smith](http://undpress.nd.edu/books/P01180) of [Boston College](https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/mcas/departments/english/people/faculty-directory/james--smith.html) will be giving a public lecture: “Ireland’s Magdalene Laundries, Academic Advocacy and Restorative Justice” (flyer attached).

The Magdalene laundries were workhouses in which many Irish women and girls were effectively imprisoned because they were perceived to be a threat to the moral fiber of society. Beginning in the 18th century, and operated by Catholic Church religious orders, the state utilized these institutions until the last Laundry closed in1996. In 1993, a public scandal was triggered when the remains of 155 inmates, buried in unmarked graves on the property, were exhumed, cremated, and buried elsewhere in a mass grave. Smith’s work with archival materials and survivors is, in Irish writer Colum McCann’s words, a “brilliant, art-driven examination of a story, or history, that needs to be told over and over and over again, lest it be forgotten or allowed to seep into the ambient noise.”

Smith is a member of [Justice for Magdalene](http://www.magdalenelaundries.com/)s Research (JFMR), the advocacy group that brought these institutions to the attention of the UN Committee Against Torture (UNCAT) in Geneva.

Prior to Professor Smith’s visit, Professor Bicks and Clair Moriarty of Orono High School will lead a discussion about the Magdalene Laundries on Tuesday, March 6, from 6 to 7:30pm in Room 65A of the high school (flyer attached).

**Routine Department Business**

The Analytical, Professional, and Technical Writing (APTW) committee is on temporary hiatus while the hiring process for a Lecturer in Academic Writing proceeds. The Undergraduate Studies Committee met on Wednesday, February 21, to discuss 100- and 200-level literature courses for non-majors (minutes attached). The Graduate Studies Committee meets this Wednesday, February 28, at 3pm in the Hatlen Room to continue discussing admissions. And the full department will meet on Thursday, March 1, at 3pm in the Hatlen Room. Full time faculty are expected to attend; all members of the department are welcome.

**Graduation Reminders for MA Candidates**

*Passing along this message from the Graduate School, which will be of special interest to second-year students in the Master’s program:*

Graduation documents and deadlines can be found on the Graduate School [website](https://umaine.edu/graduate/students/graduation/).

To graduate, all students (degree and certificate) must:

* Apply to graduate within [MaineStreet](http://mainestreet.maine.edu/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) by the appropriate deadline
* Submit a [Program of Study](https://umaine.edu/graduate/students/program-info/)

Students in a thesis program are advised to:

* Verify the [Responsible Conduct of Research](https://umaine.edu/graduate/students/rcr/) requirement has been completed. This requirement effects those admitted or readmitted into a thesis program as of Summer 2014.
* Review the information about [thesis formatting and submission](https://umaine.edu/graduate/students/thesis/)

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please do not hesitate to contact the Graduate School with any questions.

**Emily Dickinson’s Undisciplined Dad**

The [Chronicle of Higher Education](https://www.chronicle.com/)’s “daily briefing team” draws attention today to a recent post on [The Consecrated Eminence](https://consecratedeminence.wordpress.com/2018/02/16/opprobrious-epithets/?elqTrackId=d493f5df1f074f999edda47bee42a8b3&elq=ba191713f87d4acb8fd1ea148ddb9320&elqaid=17964&elqat=1&elqCampaignId=7970), a blog maintained by the Archives and Special Collections at Amherst College.

[Edward Dickinson](https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/asc%3A903596), class of 1823, who would go on to be a respected lawyer, treasurer of the college and the father of Emily Dickinson, was involved in an incident in November of 1821 with an oyster supper, cherry rum, gin and a “great disturbance in and about the Institution.”

The Charges: “—that after supper they had cherry rum and gin—that they drank to excess—that about 12 0’clock they all of them came to the Institution—that they there behaved in a very indecent and riotous manner, and made great disturbance in and about the Institution, to the extreme annoyance of those residing in it til one o’clock or later.”

[Wild nights](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44087/wild-nights-wild-nights-269), indeed.

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Have a great week, everyone!

Steve Evans

English Department Chair

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This Week in English 19 circulated to faculty, students, and friends of the department on Monday, February 26, 2018. If you would rather not receive these weekly bulletins, please reply with <unsubscribe> in your subject line. Earlier [installments](https://english.umaine.edu/category/this-week-in-english/) are archived on our [website](https://english.umaine.edu/).