

Musings

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From the Chair Professor Susan Manning

Addressing the faculty and graduate students for the first time in my new role as Chair of the English Department, I reflected on my years at Northwestern, and I would like to share those thoughts with you as well.

Since assuming my new role on the first of September, I've felt honored and humbled and very much in transition from the fourth floor to the second floor of University Hall. For twenty years I've spent five days a week in my professor's office on the fourth floor, never much minding what it looked like, just happy to have all my books and files handy. Now I spend most afternoons in the second-floor Chair's office, which I have carefully decorated with images reflecting my research interests: a print of a Romantic ballerina, oddly elongated in her pose; a poster for a German exhibition on expressionist art featuring a portrait of the gender-bending dancer Alexander Sacharoff; and an image of Katherine Dunham and a male partner, photographed from the back side.

"Why? Why on earth?" I'm asked, not so much by colleagues in this building, but by colleagues in Dance, Theatre, and Performance Studies at Northwestern and elsewhere. I don't have a short answer, an "elevator speech" of the sort that we demand our graduate students to perfect when they're on the job market. Frankly, I'm not sure why I agreed to become Chair, but I can tell you why I have loved working in this building five days a week for twenty years, and this answer will have to suffice as a rationale for my new role.

Let me be clear: I have worked in this building five days a week not only during teaching quarters but also during zero-teaching quarters, summers, even leave years. My decision to do so started as a tactic, because I intentionally became pregnant during my first month as an assistant professor, and after my first son was born during the summer after my first year, I believed that it was imperative to show up everyday so that my senior colleagues could literally see my commitment to my career and not fall back on perhaps unconscious beliefs that a woman with a young child could not also be a serious scholar. After tenure, this tactic was no longer necessary, and I could have followed most of my colleagues and set up an office at home. Yet I liked the habit of coming to University Hall every day; it created a clear boundary between my family life and my professional life; and it felt incredibly enabling for my work. And now I'm wondering why?

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NEW Doctoral STUDENTS

Shane Clauser hails from a small borough in the northeastern climes of Pennsylvania and appreciates the distinctive character of that region; however, he is eagerly anticipating the move to a new cultural and intellectual community. Graduating from Lafayette College with a double major in English and Government and Law, he plans to further explore early modern notions of gender, sexuality and the politics of male friendship and their relation to emerging paradigms of race and national identity in the changing global milieu. He has spent a year in New York City working at a securities trading firm, substitute teaching, and writing fiction.

Chanelle Fillion grew up in Brookfield, Connecticut, and graduated from Gordon College (located in the great commonwealth of Massachusetts) with a B.A. in English in 2005.

Abandoning the New England she knew and loved, Chanelle ventured to Washington, D.C., where she completed her M.A. in English at Georgetown University in 2007. Her work focuses on the mid-Victorian novel, psychoanalysis, cultural materialism, fictional autobiography, and grief theory, while her decidedly less bookish interests include film-going, cookie-baking, and the drinking of tea.

Emily Izenstein grew up in western Massachusetts and earned her B.A. in English and Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies from Cornell University. Before arriving at graduate school, she worked alternately as a preschool teacher, kayak instructor, and rugby coach. Her literary interests include Twentieth-century American fiction and poetry and, in particular, questions of cultural geography in ethnic and

gender studies. Outside of academia, she loves running, coffee, writing poetry, and all manner of outdoor activities. She has been known to bake cookies for her classmates and her latest achievement is mastering "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" on the violin.

Whitney Taylor is from Atlanta, Georgia, where she studied English and Philosophy at Emory University. She is interested in the early modern period, especially the relationship between philosophy and poetry, leading her to write her thesis on the Muses in Philosophy and Literature, specifically on invocations to the Muse in *Paradise Lost*. She enjoys teaching middle school debate (most of the time) and loves live music — especially jazz and blues. She is often hard to find on Saturdays during the fall due to her love of college football.



NEW Department



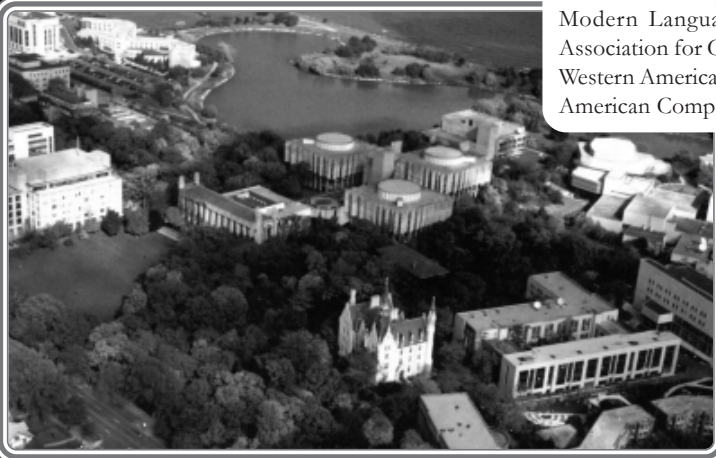
John Bresland (M.F.A., University of Iowa, 2006) is a writer and documentary filmmaker. Several of his essays have aired on public radio, while his video essays can now be seen at *Ninth Letter* and *Blackbird* online. His print essays have recently appeared in *North American Review*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Minnesota Monthly*, and elsewhere. In 2006, he was the recipient of the Tamarack Award for Fiction, a Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation fellowship, and was twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize.



John Alba Cutler (Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, 2008) researches and teaches in the fields of Chicana/o, Latina/o, and comparative ethnic American literatures; contemporary American poetry; and gender studies. He is currently working on a book-length project, *Pochos, Vatos, and Other Types of Assimilation*, examining representations of Mexican American masculinity in relation to acculturation and transnationality in post-WWII America. He has published (several forthcoming) articles on Arturo Islas and on Chicana/o narratives of the American War in Vietnam, and he has given talks at the Modern Language Association, the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies, the Western American Literature Association, and the American Comparative Literature Association.



Jan Radway (Ph.D., Michigan State University, 1977) has joined the School of Communications as a Professor of Communication and Rhetoricity, Gender Studies, and American Studies, and as a faculty affiliate with our department. She is the author of *Reading the Romance: Women, Patriarchy and Popular Literature*, and the recently published *A Feeling for Books: The Book-of-the-Month Club, Literary Taste, and Middle Class Desire*. Her most recent article length publications include "Gender in the Field of Ideological Production: Feminist Cultural Studies, the Problem of the Political Subject, and the Aims of Knowledge Production" (2005), "Research Universities, Periodical Publication and the Circulation of Professional Expertise: On the Significance of Middlebrow Authority" in *Critical Inquiry* (2004), and "What's In a Name?" in *The Futures of American Studies* (2003). Her current research interests are in the history of literacy and reading in the United States, particularly as they bear on the lives of women. As part of the American Antiquarian Society's collaborative project on the history of the book, she and Carl Kaestle are researching the topic as it pertains to the United States in the Twentieth century.



Recent Graduates

Ashley Byock (Ph.D., December 2008)

“Mourning in the Sentimental Republic: Narrativity and Identity in the Nineteenth-Century United States”

Tan-Feng Fay Chang (M.A., June 2008)

“The Veiled Woman Goes West: Rethinking Muslim Women’s Seclusion and Liberation in Leila Aboulela’s *Minaret*”

Katy Chiles (Ph.D., June 2008)

“Surprising Metamorphoses: Transformations of Race in Early American Literatures”

Joanne Diaz (Ph.D., December 2008)

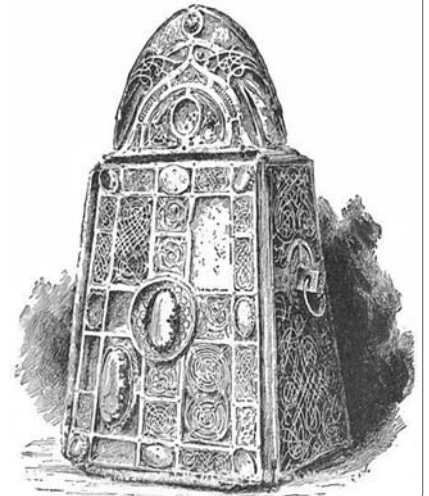
“Grief as Medicine for Grief: Complaint Poetry in Early Modern England, 1557-1609”

Scott Proudfit (Ph.D., December 2008)

“Author-ity, Quotation, and Collective Composition in 20th and 21st Century U.S. Theatre and Drama”

Gayle Rogers (Ph.D., June 2008)

“British Modernism and Ortega’s Spanish Vanguard: Cosmopolitan Visions of Europe, 1922-39”



ment Faculty



Ed Roberson, joining our poetry faculty as a Distinguished Artist in Residence, taught from 1990-2003 at Rutgers University, and from 2004-2006 at Columbia College in Chicago. He was the recipient of the Shelley Memorial Award from the Poetry

Society of America in 2008, and was one of three writers honored at the recent “Literature, Culture, & Critique” conference, organized by *Callaloo* magazine. Roberson is the author of *City Eclogue*, a poetry collection released in 2006; *Atmosphere Conditions*, winner of the 2000 National Poetry Award series; *Voices Cast Out to Talk Us In*, winner of the 1994 Iowa Poetry Prize; as well as earlier books including *When Thy King Is a Boy*, *Etai-Eken*, and *Lucid Interval as Integral Music*. Roberson was described in the *American Book Review* as “one of those deeply skilled poets - like William Bronk, Jack Spicer, and Gustaf Sobin - who have worked far outside that matrix of professional critics and reviewers where literary reputations are determined.”



Laurie Shannon (J.D., Harvard Law School, 1989, Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1996) specializes in English literature of “the long Sixteenth century,” from the rise of the printed book in the late 1400s to the beheading of

Charles I in 1649. She is author of *Sovereign Amity: Figures of Friendship in Shakespearean Contexts* (Chicago, 2002). *Sovereign Amity* concerns matters of agency, bureaucracy, gender, consent, and sexuality in early modernity’s appropriation of classical friendship principles. It pursues a persistent opposition between the friendship pair (as a utopian experiment in “micro-polity”) and more systemic institutions of the “body politic” and monarchy, proposing an adversarial yet linked evolution for self-governing subjects and statist authority. She has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and (most recently) the Guggenheim Foundation.

Ivy Wilson (Ph.D., Yale 2002) teaches courses on the comparative literatures of the black diaspora and U.S. literary studies with a particular emphasis on African American culture. His forthcoming book, *Specters of Democracy: Blackness and the Aesthetics of Nationalism* (Oxford UP), interrogates how the figurations and tropes of blackness were used to produce the social equations that regulated the cultural meanings of U.S. citizenship and traces how African American intellectuals manipulated the field of aesthetics as a means to enter into political discourse about the forms of subjectivity and national belonging. Along with recent articles in *ESQ*, *Arizona Quarterly*, and *PMLA*, his other work in U.S. literary studies includes two forthcoming edited books on the nineteenth-century poets James Monroe Whitfield and Albery Allson Whitman. His current research interests focus on the solubility of nationalism in relationship to theories of the diaspora, global economies of culture, and circuits of the super-national and sub-national.





Digitally Assisted Text Analysis D.A.T.A.

Martin Mueller

Humanists like to genuflect before the icon of ‘close reading’, and it certainly deserves more attention than it gets in a busy world. On the other hand, in our daily practices we all acknowledge the Importance of Not-Reading, about which Pierre Bayard has written an entertaining book. And we may yearn for a pair of Christian Morgenstern’s Spectacles (wittily translated by Max Knight):

I Korf reads avidly and fast.
Therefore he detests the vast
bombast of the repetitious,
twelfefold needless, injudicious.

II Most affairs are settled straight
just in seven words or eight;
in as many tapeworm phrases
one can prattle on like blazes.

III Hence he lets his mind invent
a corrective instrument:
Spectacles whose focal strength
shortens texts of any length.

IV Thus, a poem such as this,
so beglassed one would just — miss.
Thirty-three of them will spark
nothing but a question mark.

Enter DATA or ‘Digitally Assisted Text Analysis’. This is most certainly a form of ‘not-reading’ rather than ‘close reading’, but it has its own ways of combining macro- with micro-analysis. In the Northwestern Library’s implementation of Philologic you can search across close to a billion words of written English from the fifteenth to the late nineteenth century (<http://philologic.northwestern.edu>). In three minutes you can look at the histories of the words ‘beast’ and ‘animal’. The former declines from a high of 25 occurrences per 100,000 words in the 1500’s to ~7 in the 1800’s. The latter rises from 0.5 to 5 over the same period: a vignette not without interest. A search for ‘liberty’ by decade over four centuries shows striking spikes in the 1650’s and 1680’s.

In five minutes or so, the WordHoard version of the Chadwyck-Healey collection of Nineteenth-century fiction (<http://noir.at.northwestern.edu/wordhoard/ncf/>) lets you compare lexical preferences of male and female novelists. It is not surprising—but the evidence is very hard—that the verb ‘feel’ and the noun ‘heart’ discriminate very sharply between men and women. On the other hand, a second-step procedure—the work of three more minutes— tells you 1) that compared with other women writers Jane Austen is quite ‘heartless’ and 2) that she actually uses the noun less often than male novelists.

A three-step procedure with the same tool lets you discover within minutes that the adjective ‘inward’ is used

1. more often by women than by men
2. more often by George Eliot
3. most often by George Eliot in Daniel Deronda

The ‘fabric’ of a text is made up of threads and spangles. Spangles are the many rare words. Threads are the comparatively few common words that occur in many texts but make a difference by their relative frequency. These differences are hard to get at in their concrete detail through ordinary forms of reading, although readers are certainly sensitive to them. You can get at them very effectively with search tools that provide frequency data whose interpretation is easy for anybody with a reasonably solid grasp of eighth-grade math. More often than not there is an interesting connection between large-scale narrative or thematic topics and the lowly facts about the distribution of common lexical phenomena.



Beyond the Degree : Recent Alumni Publications

Though the bulk of this newsletter has traditionally dedicated to the achievements of our current graduate students and faculty, it's well worth taking the opportunity to look at the recent publications of some of those who have graduated from the program and moved on into the world of professional academia.

What follows is a sampling of articles and books published recently by a selection of alumni who have graduated within the last 10 years or so. Our alumni are proving to be extraordinarily productive after graduation, and there is of course a much longer list of older publications, and those that are either still in the works or out for review. We would like to continue offering this as a new regular feature of the newsletter and so, although we will of course be doing our own research into this matter, we would like to remind our alumni that we welcome any input or updates that they might like to send in.

Carla Arnell (1999) Associate Professor, Lake Forest College

“Chaucer’s Wife of Bath and John Fowles’s Quaker Maid: Tale Telling and the Trial of Personal Experience and Written Authority in Fowles’s *Maggot*”
Article appearing in *Language Review*, 102.4 (2007)

“Earthly Men and Otherworldly Women: Gender Types and Religious Types in Jeanette Winterson’s ‘Atlantic Crossing’ and Other Short Fiction”
Article appearing in *Journal of the Short Story in English*, 45 (2006)

“So Familiar, Yet So Strange: Mythic Fragments of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight in Iris Murdoch’s *Green Knight*”
Article appearing in *Mythlore*, 24:93 (2004)

Michael Bryson (2001) Assistant Professor, California State University - Northridge

“A Poem to the Unknown God: *Samson Agonistes* and Negative Theology”
Article appearing in *Milton Quarterly*, 42:3 (2008)

“The Mysterious Darkness of Unknowing: *Paradise Lost* and the God Beyond Names”
Article appearing in *A Poem Written In Ten Books: Paradise Lost 1667* (2007 – Dusquesne University Press)

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Pl a c e m e n t

We’ve had good news from **Carla Arnell** (Ph.D. 1999), a student of Reg Gibbons and the late Elizabeth Dipple, who has received tenure in the English Department at Lake Forest College.

Newly returned from Paris, **Ashley Byock** (Ph.D. 2008) has accepted a position as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, as a CIC (Committee on Institutional Cooperation) Teaching Postdoctorate Fellow. Her classes will focus on American literature and literary history, with a scope ranging from the post-colonial period through the end of the American Civil War.

Another year of job market success for our department has seen four of our students winning tenure track jobs. **Katy Chiles** (Ph.D. 2008) has joined the faculty at University of Tennessee in Knoxville, teaching African-American literature.

Joanne Diaz (Ph.D. 2008) is now on faculty at Illinois Wesleyan

University in Bloomington, where she is teaching both literature and creative writing.

Doug O’Keefe (Ph.D. 2007) is now a member of the growing English Department at Jacksonville State University in Alabama, teaching with a focus on Eighteenth-century British literature.

Finally, **Gayle Rogers** (Ph.D. 2008) has moved on to join the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh, where he’ll be teaching Twentieth-century British literature.

At the same time, **Eric LeMay** (Ph.D. 2003) has been promoted to the newly created position of Associate Director of the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard University. In this role, he will teach writing pedagogy to new graduate instructors from all departments and continue his own undergraduate teaching, but he should have significant time for his poetry and non-fiction writing as well.



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Marcy Dinius (2003)

Assistant Professor, University of Delaware

“Slavery in Black and White: Literary Genre, Daguerreotypy, and Uncle Tom’s Cabin”

Article appearing in *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*, 52:3 (2007)

“Daguerreotype”

Entry appearing in the *Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography* (2007, Routledge Press)

Review of Eliza Richards’ *Gender and the Poetics of Reception in Poe’s Circle*
Article appearing in *Edgar Allan Poe Review*, 7:2 (2006)

“Publishers”

Article appearing in *American History through Literature, 1820-1870* (2005, Charles Scribner’s Sons)

Ryan Friedman (2004)

Assistant Professor, Ohio State University

“Between Absorption and Extinction”: Charles Chesnut and Biopolitical Racism”

Article appearing in *Arizona Quarterly*, 63:1 (2007)

Bryan Hampton (2004)

Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

“Infernal Preaching: Participation, God’s Name, and the Great Prophesying Movement in the Demonic Council Scene of *Paradise Lost*”
Article appearing in *The Uncircumscribed Mind: Reading Milton Deeply* (2008, Susquehanna University Press)

“New Lawes thou see’st imposed: Milton’s Dissenting Angels and the Clarendon Code, 1661-65”

Article appearing in *Paradise Lost: A Poem Written in Ten Books: Essays on the 1667 First Edition* (2007 - Duquesne University Press)

Coleman Hutchison (2006)

Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Austin

“On the Move Again: Tracking the Exploits, Adventures, and Travels of Madame Loreta Janeta Velazquez”

Article appearing in *Comparative American Studies*, 5:4 (2007)

“Whistling Dixie for the Union (Nation, Anthem, Revision)”

Article appearing in *American Literary History*, 19:3 (2007)



Eric Lemay (2002)

Associate Director of the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University

“Star-Crossed Something-or-Others”

Article appearing in *The Harvard Review*, 33 (2007)

Republished as “Prose Feature of the Week” on *Poetry Daily* and recognized as “Notable Essay of the Year” in the *2008 Best American Essays*

“The Hurricane and the Vacherin”

Article appearing in *Dark Sky Magazine*, 8:7 (2008)

Celia Marshik (1999)

Associate Professor, State University of New York - Stony Brook

British Modernism and Censorship

Book published by the Cambridge University Press (2006)

Timothy Rosendale (1998)

Associate Professor, Southern Methodist University

Liturgy and Literature in the Making of Protestant England

Book published by Cambridge University Press (2007)

“Milton, Hobbes, and the Liturgical Subject”

Article appearing in *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900 (SEL)*, 44:1

“Sacral and Sacramental Kingship in Shakespeare’s Lancastrian Tetralogy”
Article appearing in *Shakespeare and the Culture of Christianity in Early Modern England* (Fordham University Press, 2004)

Kimberly Segall (2001)

Associate Professor, Seattle Pacific University

“Melancholy Ties: Intergenerational Loss and Exile in *Persepolis*”

Article appearing in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*, 28:1 (2008)

“Lamenting the Dead in South Africa and Iraq: Transitioning from Individual Trauma to Collective Mourning Performances”

Article appearing in *Lamentations in Ancient and Contemporary Cultural Contexts*, 43 (2008, Society of Biblical Literature)

Elizabeth Sturgeon (2004)

Assistant Professor, Mount St. Mary’s College

“Where Is the Love?: The Ethics of Empathy in Abu Ghraib”

Article appearing in the *CEA Forum* (2007)

“Prosopopoeia, The Mirror for Magistrates, The New Chronicles of France and England”

Articles appearing in *The Literary Encyclopedia* (2007)

“Why We Need Unions”

Article appearing in the *Long Beach Post* (2007)

Glenn Sucich (2005)

Lecturer, Northwestern University

“Not Without Dust and Heat”: Alchemy and Arcopagitica”

Article appearing in *The Uncircumscribed Mind: Reading Milton Deeply* (2008, Susquehanna University Press)



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It's hard to say exactly why, but I believe the answer lies in the way that University Hall and South Campus and the English Department have framed my work. Provided me with access to colleagues across the arts and humanities—to dance and theatre faculty in the arts complex on the lake, to artist-scholars in performance studies and film studies in Annie May Swift, to art historians and classicists and scholars of modern languages in Kresge, to historian-historians in Harris Hall, and of course to all the amazing creative writers and literary scholars in University Hall, who each have their own set of connections across campus. For someone working in the emergent discipline of dance studies, my sense of being centrally located in the humanities has been crucial.

So when I was asked to become Chair, it seemed right to take some responsibility for the edifice that has housed me for 20 years. To welcome new residents to this beautiful neo-Gothic building and to bid other residents farewell; to assist everyone in achieving as much as they can while here and to celebrate those achievements; above all, to keep the doors and windows open and the passage free to the outside world. That's how I see my job for the next three years, and I invite you all to stop in and see my newly decorated office on the second floor of University Hall.

Susan Manning
Department Chair

Melissa Daniels (4th year) moved to California recently, and is currently teaching a course entitled “Race, Literature, and the Law” at Occidental College in Los Angeles. The course examines how the Plessy v. Ferguson decision and the Hennessy trial influenced writings by Mark Twain, William Dean Howells, and Frances Ellen Watkins Harper on race, immigration, and the South.

In May, **Anna Fenton-Hathaway** (6th year) traveled to London to conduct research at the British Library. The trip gave her access to the proceedings from Britain’s National Association for the Promotion of Social Science; Mary Taylor’s essays from *Victoria Magazine*, collected under the title *The First Duty of Women* (1870); and Victorian pamphlets on beauty and aging.

Sarah Lahey (4th year) conducted research this summer at the Library of Congress on the prison diary of Confederate Spy, Eugenia Levy Phillips.

In March, **Hyun-Jung Lee** traveled to California to conduct archival research at the Huntington Library in San Marino, a trip that allowed her to consult Wilkie Collins’ manuscript for the novel *Armada* (1866), as well as the author’s personal copies of the novel’s various adaptations for the stage.

Jason Malikow conducted archival research on Allen Ginsberg’s geographies of America at the University of Texas’ Harry Ransom Center. He is planning a return visit to read from the papers of Walt Whitman, Robert Lowell, and Alfred A. Knopf. This past summer Jason pursued Herman Melville across Massachusetts, with stops at Arrowhead, the Berkshire Athenaeum, and Harvard University’s Houghton Library. The summer also saw Jason complete the Searle Center’s Graduate Teaching Certificate Program, and settle the details for a co-chairmanship of the panel ‘American Studies Beyond the Center-Periphery Model’ at this year’s Midwest MLA convention.

Josh Smith (5th year) attended an intensive Welsh course at the University of Wales in Aberystwyth, and is currently in residence as a Visiting Scholar in the department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic at the University of Cambridge, where he will be researching his dissertation during the coming year.

Research



Alfred Appel was a featured speaker at the “*Lolita* in America” symposium, held at the New School of New York on September 27th. The event was organized to mark the 50th anniversary of *Lolita*’s American publication, and Alfred participated by giving a lecture entitled “*Lolita* and the Fabulous Forties and Fifties.” He is also pushing ahead with his work on his next book, *Victory’s Scrapbook: Warfare from “Life”, Leger, and Hemmingway to Dick Tracy, Picasso, and Me*, a project which has continued to grow in scope, now expected to be published as a two-volume set.

A translation of **Eula Biss’s** essay “Time and Distance Overcome” will be appearing this fall in the German journal *EDIT*, her essay “Nobody Knows Your Name” will be appearing in the Chicago journal *MAKE*, and her essay “Is This Kansas?” will be appearing this winter in the *Denver Quarterly*. Her new collection of essays, *Notes from No Man’s Land*, won the 2008 Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize and will be released in February 2009.

Katharine Breen is thoroughly enjoying teaching a rather free-form History of the English Language, in which the traditional textbook has been replaced by a three-inch-thick course reader and David Crystal’s *The Stories of English*. So far, her favorite unit has been on the gender politics of the mother tongue, both medieval and modern.



Cambridge University Press has recently accepted her book on the relationship between habit and reading in late medieval England for publication .

Paul Breslin has begun writing a study of modernist Caribbean representations of the Haitian Revolution, under contract in the New World Studies series of the University of Virginia Press. His new poetry manuscript, “Between My Eye and the Light,” is out getting its teeth examined by a couple of presses. Poems from the collection have appeared in *Literary Imagination*, *Narrative Magazine*, and *Slate*. He is working on an essay, “Translation and Postcolonial Misrecognition,” for the collection *Toward a Theory of Multicultural Literature*, edited by Frederick Aldama, which examines the implications of the divergent reception histories of two plays by Aimé Césaire: *Une tempête* (A Tempest) and *La tragédie du roi Christophe* (The Tragedy of King Christophe). The first has had far more critical attention in English than the latter, but *Christophe* is generally considered the better play and has received more attention from critics writing in French.

With Comparative Literature doctoral candidate Rachel Ney, he has translated *La tragédie du roi Christophe*, a project to which they are now making late-stage



Reginald Gibbons has been named one of five finalists for the prestigious 2008 National Book Award in poetry for *Creatures of a Day*, a collection of poems that contemplates memory, obligation, love, death, celebration, and sorrow. Gibbons, who also is director of Northwestern’s Center for the Writing Arts, will travel to New York to attend the National Book Awards ceremony, where the winners in the four categories of the National Book Awards will be announced November 19th. More than

revisions in the light of their research into the allusive implications of Césaire’s language, which evokes a wide range of Caribbean, African, and European intertexts.

Nick Davis published an article in the November 2008 issue of *GLQ* about John Cameron Mitchell’s film *Shortbus* and the larger trend toward explicit, unstimulated sex between actors in recent commercial films. He also has an article about Julie Christie and Vanessa Redgrave’s political activism forthcoming in a Rutgers University Press anthology, plus three essays included in *Fifty Key US Films*, due from Routledge in 2009. This fall, he attended the London Film Festival as both a researcher and an accredited member of the festival press. Reviews

Faculty

and reports appear on his website at: www.NicksFlickPicks.com.

Brian Edwards traveled to Istanbul early this summer for a workshop with Turkish colleagues sponsored by Northwestern’s Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies. He had enough

200 publishers submitted 1,258 books for the 2008 National Book Awards.

A distinguished poet, fiction writer, translator, and literary critic, Gibbons has won the O.B. Hardison, Jr. Poetry Prize from the Folger Shakespeare Library; the 1995 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for *Sweetbitter*, his first novel; a Guggenheim Fellowship; and the Carl Sandburg Award for *Sparrow: New and Selected Poems*. His work has been published in *Harper’s*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *The Nation*, *New York Times Book Review*, and in *Pushcart Prize* and *Best American Poetry* anthologies.



In July of this year, the Folger Shakespeare Library announced Mary Kinzie as the recipient of the eighteenth annual O. B. Hardison, Jr. Poetry Prize. The Hardison Prize is the only major American prize to recognize a poet's teaching as well as his or her art. The Hardison Prize is presented in memory of former Folger Shakespeare Library director O. B. Hardison, Jr., a scholar, teacher, and poet who established the Folger's prestigious public programs, including Folger Poetry.

Kinzie's list of publications includes

seven collections of poetry, two volumes of critical essays, and a critical handbook on poetry and prosody. She has won numerous awards and an artist grant from the Illinois Arts Council, the 1987 Elizabeth Matchett Stover Memorial Award in Poetry from *Southwest Review*, and the 1988 Celia B. Wagner Award from the Poetry Society of America. She was named a DeWitt Wallace Fellow at the MacDowell Colony in 1979 and in 1986 held a Guggenheim Fellowship in Poetry. In 2005-2006, she spent a year as a senior fellow in poetry at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina.



University Press. She also published "Radical Jefferson," an invited response to Michael Hardt's "Jefferson and Democracy" in *American Quarterly*; while her plenary address, "Whitman, Marx, and the American 1848," was published in *Walt Whitman: The Sesquicentennial Essays*. An essay entitled "Whitman, Melville, and the Tribulations of Democracy" is forthcoming in *A Companion to American Literature and Culture*, edited by Paul Lauter; and her Colloquy response to Vincent Carretta's controversial biography *Equiano, the African* is forthcoming in *Eighteenth-Century Culture*.

Further, she has participated in conferences on the eighteenth century at Dartmouth and the Omohundro Institute of American History and Culture in Williamsburg, and a panel on Whitman at the American Studies Association in Albuquerque. In January of 2009, she will be giving two public lectures on "Franklin and the Revolutionary Body" and "Franklin and Civic Citizenship" for an exhibit on Benjamin Franklin at the Oakwood Park Public Library in Chicago; and, finally, she will be giving a presentation on Walt Whitman for high school teachers at the Newberry Library in the Spring.

Once again this fall, **Kasey Evans** is privileged to share the classroom with Carl Smith and Henry Binford (of the Northwestern History Department), team-teaching two freshman courses, jointly entitled "Brave New Worlds," under the auspices of the Kaplan

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miles to bring Oliver and Pia (now 9 and 6, respectively), who got to enjoy the city with another faculty child and a Turkish grad student while the professors were discussing politics and culture, before

Association. In the late winter, he travels to Cairo as a Fulbright Senior Specialist, to help develop American Studies programs at Cairo University, Giza, in the shadow of the pyramids.

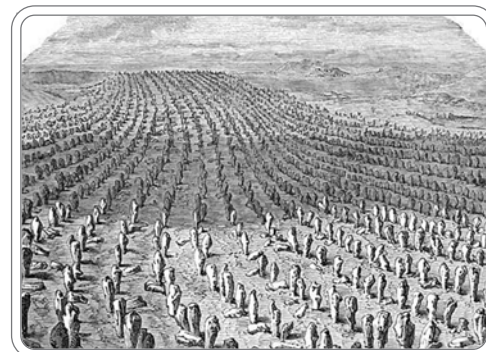
Joseph Epstein's new book, *Fred Astaire*, has just been published by Yale University Press as part of its American Icons series.

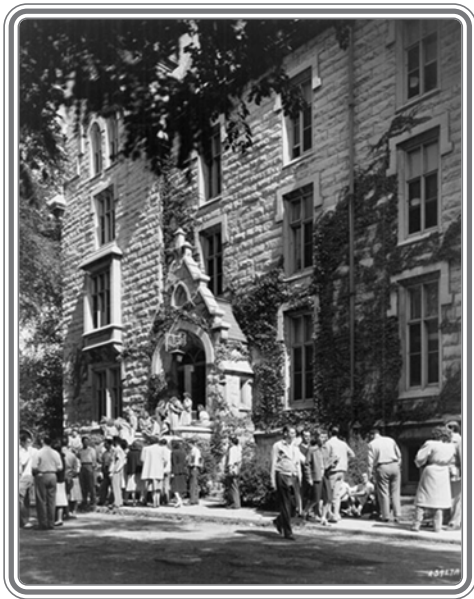
In 2007, **Betsy Erkkilä** was one of several international scholars who met in Paris to establish a Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association. As a result, the first annual Walt Whitman seminar and symposium was held this summer in Dortmund, Germany, where Betsy had the pleasure of co-teaching a week-long seminar with scholars from Italy, Germany, and France to a group of undergraduate and graduate students from some fifteen countries around the world. Next year the seminar and symposium will take place in Tours, France, in June.

Over the past year, she has had to put aside work on a book entitled *Imagining the Revolution* in order to complete an edition entitled *Ezra Pound the Contemporary Reviews* (a version of which had been completed 25 years ago before the contracting press went under); the volume is now part of a series at Cambridge

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rejoining their fathers to visit both Asian and European sides of the fabulous city. On the way back, he gave a plenary lecture at the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth. This academic year, thanks to a Mellon New Directions Fellowship, Brian is on leave, training in sociocultural anthropology and Middle East studies at the University of Chicago. The sojourn back to the classroom was designed to allow Brian to interrogate questions of methodology for his ongoing book project, *After the American Century: American Culture in Middle Eastern Circulation*. When he's not in Hyde Park, coaching soccer and baseball in Evanston, or co-chairing the new Middle East and North African Studies Faculty Working Group at Northwestern, he's squeezing in a research trip to Tehran just after the election, meetings in Birmingham (UK) and Paris, two invited lectures at Yale, and giving a paper at the Middle East Studies





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Humanities Scholars Program. She has two articles forthcoming this winter in *SEL* and *Renaissance Drama* on *The Faerie Queene* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, respectively. In the spring, she will present papers at the Shakespeare Association of America conference in Washington, D.C.; the Spenser sessions at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, MI; and a conference entitled “Italy and the Drama of Europe: Papers in Honor of Louise George Clubb” in her old stomping grounds in Berkeley, CA. In May, she will offer her second seminar through the Newberry Library Teachers’ Consortium, a session entitled “Killing Will: Teaching Shakespeare without Shakespeare.” On October 12, she ran the Chicago marathon with Northwestern Ph.D. students Jade Werner and Emily Izenstein, who are as fierce on the running trail as they are brilliant in the classroom.

Christine Froula presented a paper, “Scribbling into Eternity: Paris, Proust, ‘Proteus,’” in June at the 21st International James Joyce Symposium in Tours, France, and then visited the Garnett Family archive at Hilton Hall in Cambridge, England, on behalf of the University Library, which has now acquired the archive. She was recently appointed a member of the Advisory Board of the Center for Modernist Studies, based in Zhejiang

University in the city of Hangzhou, China, and of the Advisory Group of the Textual Studies Initiative at Loyola University of Chicago. She will give a position paper drawn from her current work on the literature of empire, war, and worldliness on a panel titled “Modernity: Why” for the Division of Late Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Literature at the MLA conference in San Francisco this December.

Reg Gibbons’ new book, translations of Sophocles entitled *Selected Poems: Odes and Fragments* (Princeton), saw publication this past October. In early October, while in England, he gave a lecture on this topic at Royal Holloway in London and a poetry reading in Durham. A shortened version of his introduction to his Sophocles translations appears in the November/December issue of *American Poetry Review*. In September he was the guest of the M.F.A. in Translation and the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, where he led a session of the fall-semester seminar in literary translation and gave a poetry reading. Here at Northwestern this quarter, the M.F.A. in Creative Writing (School of Continuing Studies), which Reg designed with the assistance of other faculty in creative writing, has matriculated its first students. Despite being on leave this fall, he continues as Director of the Center for the Writing Arts.

John Keene, who recently concluded a two-year rotating stint as Director of the Undergraduate Writing Major Program, was awarded a Fellowship for Distinguished First Poetry Collection, for his collection *Seismosis* with artist Christopher Stackhouse, by the inaugural Pan-African Literary Forum, which held its conference in July 2008 in Accra, Ghana. Earlier in the year he participated in a panel discussion on, and spoke to a Borough of Manhattan Community College literature class about, the “The Harlem Renaissance Revisited” in

conjunction with Poets House in New York, as well as at the “Race, Sex, Power” conference at the University of Illinois, Chicago. During the academic year he also gave readings, talks, or participated in panel discussions, at Indiana University, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, University of Notre Dame, Northeastern Illinois University, Temple University, and “Danny’s Reading Series in Chicago.”

Chris Lane’s book *Shyness: How Normal Behavior Became a Sickness*, now out in paperback with Yale, was commended by the British Medical Association in its annual book competition and will be published in French this February by Editions Flammarion. Chris published op-ed pieces recently in the *Boston Globe* and *Los Angeles Times*, plus a review of two books in the *New York Sun*. He has essays forthcoming in *Theory and Psychology*, the *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, the *International Literary Quarterly*, and the NYU Press collection *Against Health: Has Health Become the New Morality?* He gave a plenary talk at the British Association of Victorian Studies annual conference, held this September at the University of Leicester, and will give an invited lecture at Cornell Medical School in January. He is now focusing on a book about Victorian agnosticism, under contract with Yale.

Jules Law’s essay on George Eliot’s *Daniel Deronda* appeared in *Nineteenth-Century Literature* last winter, and an essay on *Villette* and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* is forthcoming in the journal *Novel*. Jules was recently appointed Director of the Kaplan Humanities Scholars Program in Weinberg College. Last spring, Jules was awarded Centro Romero’s Community Leadership Award in recognition of his educational and fundraising work in Chicago’s Latino community.

This summer just past, **Larry Lipking**





taught at the School of Letters, a graduate program of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. This fall he received an Emeritus Fellowship from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The grant, for two years, will enable him to finish his book on the Scientific Revolution. One part of the grant will support research in the Newton collection at the Wren Library, Trinity College, Cambridge.

Susan Manning has spent much of the past year curating an exhibition and writing the accompanying catalogue for *Danse noires/blanche Amérique*. A cultural history of the repertory of African-American theatre dance over the last century, the exhibition will open in January 2009 at the Centre national de la danse in Paris. Around the same time an Italian translation of *Ecstasy and the Demon*, her study of German modern dancer Mary Wigman, will appear. Travelling back and forth across the Atlantic to work on both projects has given her a broader perspective on dance studies as a cross-national formation. This perspective informed her 2008 keynote for the Society of Dance History Scholars, titled "Looking Back," which will be published in the annual proceedings.

Jeffrey Masten recently concluded three years as director of the Program in Gender Studies at Northwestern. This fall, he is in residence as a fellow at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. He recently wrote the program notes for Chicago Shakespeare Theatre's fall production of Christopher Marlowe's *Edward II*.

Barbara Newman is happily on leave, having completed her two-year term as Director of Graduate Studies. She spoke at a conference in London last June, after which she headed to Prague with her husband Richard to admire the perfect fusion of late Gothic with Art Nouveau. Her book on Thomas of Cantimpré will

be published by Brepols this fall, and for the rest of the year she plans to occupy herself with Julian of Norwich and, just for a change, T. S. Eliot and Charles Williams. (Did you ever wonder how "All shall be well" found its way into "Little Gidding," a poem not otherwise noted for its optimism?) Being perversely addicted to organizing things, Barbara is also serving as Program Chair for the Medieval Academy, which will meet in Chicago this spring for the first time in forty years.

Susie Phillips has really enjoyed taking the 220 students in her Introduction to Shakespeare course to the Charles Deering Special Collections Library so that they can see first-hand original copies of Shakespeare's *Second Folio*, the early modern play texts of his contemporaries, and royal proclamations by James I. The students have been raving about their experiences, particularly the fact that they had a chance to see the library's edition of the Nuremberg Chronicle printed in 1493, and Susie is grateful to the Special Collections librarians for making these visits possible. She has been invited to teach a two-day seminar for high school teachers at the Newberry Library this March, entitled "Rebellious Readers from the Middle Ages," and in December, she will be the keynote speaker at the "Art of Persuasion" Conference in Amsterdam, hosted by National Dutch Research School for Medieval Studies. She is currently co-editing a special issue of *Philological Quarterly* on boundary crossing in Medieval Studies, and her essay, "Schoolmasters, Seduction, and Slavery: Polyglot Dictionaries in Early Modern England" will be appearing shortly in the 2008 volume of *Medievalia et Humanistica*. This essay is part of her current book project, *Polyglots and Pocketbooks: A Cultural History of the Pre-modern Dictionary*. With the help of a URGC grant, Susie was able to spend the summer in London conducting research for this project.

Regina Schwartz published *Sacramental Poetics at the Dawn of Secularism: When God Left the World* with Stanford University Press in their distinguished series, Cultural Memory in the Present. She has been giving lectures on Sacramental Poetics (keynote at the 16th century conference, at the South Central MLA) and on Milton (most recently a keynote address at the International Milton Symposium in London). She co-hosted a conference on Religion and Violence here at Northwestern, and continues to co-direct the Newberry Milton Seminar. A recent essay on "Law and Love in the Merchant of Venice" was published in *Triquarterly* and will be published in an Italian journal this year.

Shauna Seliy read from her novel *When We Get There* at the Amherst College Center for Creative Writing, and at Cornell University's Fall 2008 Reading Series. *When We Get There* was published in the UK under the title *The Trials and Tribulations of Lucas Lessar* and was chosen by Metro UK as one of the best debuts of the year.

Carl Smith is team-teaching again this year with Kasey Evans and Henry Binford (History) in the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Freshman Scholars Program. He is traveling this fall to give presentations at the Social Science History Association and Urban History Association meetings, and he is a featured speaker in a session on the 1909 Plan of Chicago, better known as the Burnham Plan, at this fall's Chicago Humanities Festival.

During this past year, his first at Northwestern, **Vivasvan Soni** completed his book manuscript, titled *Mourning Happiness: Narrative and the Politics of Modernity*, and had it accepted for publication by Cornell University Press.

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The book describes the narrative processes by which a politics of happiness comes to be eclipsed in the eighteenth century, in novels, sentimental moral theory, Kant's ethics, Rousseau's political theory and the American Revolution. The Greek ideas of happiness – Solon, Aristotle, tragedy, Athenian funeral

orations – are also used to theorize what a utopian politics of happiness would look like, and how happiness might be rooted in narrative. He has started on two new projects in the meantime, one which traces a modern crisis of judgment to its genesis in the eighteenth century, and another which makes the case for utopian literature as an essential form of political thinking in a democracy, while also editing a special issue of the journal *Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* on *The Crisis of Judgment*. Later this year, he will be presenting papers at the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism on the relationship of romanticism to utopian thought, and at UCLA's Clark Library on America and the fate of the utopian imaginary in the Eighteenth century.

This past year, **Wendy Wall** finished her three-year term as Chair, happily welcoming Susan Manning as our new fearless leader. Having returned to her research on early modern recipe books, she is travelling to the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Huntington Library, and to the University of Iowa Library (which has one of the largest collections of culinary manuscripts and printed items in the country). As she has been presenting her research to audiences at the Renaissance Society of America, the University of Minnesota, and the "Writing Cultures" Symposium in Texas, she's been delighted to find that scholars are a treasure trove of information about menus, food movements, cookbooks, distilling tips, and recipes. Three articles are forthcoming from this project, one considering the ways in which cookbooks engage in philosophical debates about art and nature; another looks at how the organization of cookbooks changed in Seventeenth-century England in ways that reflect protocols of the new science. The third article takes up women's manuscript recipe books and argues for domestic practice as a type of intellectual production.



In 2007-08, **Will West** took advantage of two quarters of leave to complete articles on how to tell when the (Elizabethan) jig is up, Thomas Browne's Brownian motion, and real

and represented confusions on the Elizabethan stage, and to teach a graduate level independent study on mimesis. But most significantly, he welcomed "his best piece of poetry," Kala Rose Ebert West, tied for that title with her older sister, Amelia West.

Papers Conferences & Publications

Sarah Blackwood (7th year) presented a portion of her dissertation research on the artist Thomas Eakins at the annual College Art Association meeting in February 2008 and chaired a panel on portraiture and authenticity at the American Literature Association meeting in May. In addition, she is currently finishing a contribution titled "The Aesthetics of Psychology" to *Henry James in Context*, an edited collection of essays to be published by Cambridge University Press.

In September, **Ari Bookman** (2nd year) attended a conference on "Reading After Empire," hosted by the University of Stirling in Scotland, where he presented his paper titled "Reading Africa, Writing Haiti: The Transatlantic Imagination in Carpentier's *El Reino de Este Mundo*."

This past spring, **Katy Chiles** (Ph.D. 2008) presented her work on Hendrick Aupaumuts' *A Short Narration of My Last Journey to the Western Country* at the Society of Early Americanists' annual meeting and the Newberry Library Seminar in Early American History and Culture. Her essay "Becoming Colored in Occom and Wheatley's Early America," has just been published in the *PMLA*'s October special issue on Comparative Racialization.

In December 2007, **Joanne Diaz** (Ph.D. 2008) presented "More letters sadly penned in blood: Blood as Ink in Early Modern Complaint Poetry" at the MLA conference in Chicago. She has poems of her own both recently published and forthcoming in *The American Poetry Review*, *AGNI*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Cimarron Review*, and *Diagram*.

In May 2008, **Anna Fenton-Hathaway** (6th year) traveled to the University of Salford, Manchester, to present a paper entitled, "*Villette* and *Miss Miles*: The Lost Letters of Charlotte



Brontë and Mary Taylor” at the “Brontës in Context” conference.

Peter Jaros’ article “Personating Stephen Burroughs: The Apparitions of a Public Specter” has been accepted for publication in an upcoming volume of *Early American Literature*.

Sarah Lahey (4th year) presented a paper entitled “Between Black & White: Phoebe Pember’s Civil War” at the University of Chicago Minority Graduate Student Organization annual conference in May 2008.

Sarah Lahey and **Jason Malikow** (4th year) have jointly won the Northwestern University Emerging Graduate Student Leader of the Year Award, Jason having also presented “‘The Grim Problem of Existence’: Anxiety as Narrative Agent in *The Grapes of Wrath*” at the 2008 annual conference for the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature, hosted by the University of Texas at Austin.

Nathan Leahy (4th year) presented the paper, “‘Revolving Doors’: Global Flows and National Blockages of Capital and Labor in John Dos Passos’s *Manhattan Transfer*” at a conference on theories of circulation at Tufts University last October. Nathan will also be co-chairing the panel “American Studies Beyond the Center-Periphery Model” at the MMLA convention, as well as taking the opportunity to present his paper “‘Inverted Whitman(s): Kenneth Fearing, Muriel Rukeyser, and the ‘Statistical Eye/’ in Depression-era Poetics.” He is in the process of assisting Professors Brian Edwards and Dilip Gaonkar with their book project *Globalizing American Studies*, a collections of essays taken from the Globalizing American Studies project over the past few years.

Jenny Lee (4th year) presented “Ovid’s *Fama* and Auctorite in Chaucer’s *The House of Fame*” at Purdue University’s Comitatus Conference for Medieval Studies in February 2008 and also saw the publication of her article “‘Of Your Herte Up Casteth the Visage’: Turning Troilo/Troilus’s Eyes to God” in the Spring 2008 issue of the journal *Hortulus*.

Liz McCabe (6th year) presented a paper entitled “Desperate for Comedy in Victorian Anthropology” at the 2008 conference of the International Society for the Study of Narrative, hosted by the University of Texas at Austin. Her paper examined challenges to the comic narrative of civilization’s history that was popular in Victorian anthropological writing.

Melvin Peña (7th year) gave a paper titled “Boswell in Corsica/ Melvin in Italy: Searching for Communities” at the international

supernumerary conference entitled “(Trans)-national Identities/Reimagining Communities: A Joint Conference of the Centro Interdisciplinare di Studi Romantici and the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism,” held in March in Bologna, Italy, and sponsored by the Dipartimento di Lingue e Letterature Straniere Moderne, Alma Mater Studiorum, Università di Bologna.

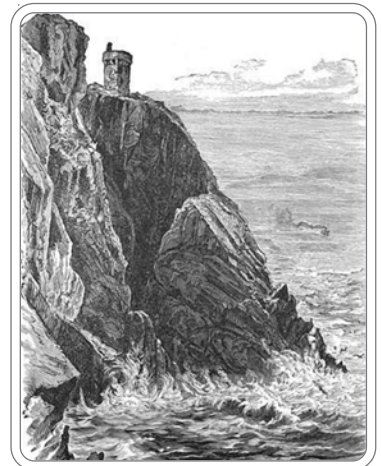
Scott Proudfit (Ph.D. 2008) presented a paper titled “Less Talk-Back, More Action: Audience Participation in Cornerstone Theater Company’s Zones,” at the American Society for Theatre Research this past fall in Phoenix, Arizona.

This past summer, **Wendy Roberts** (4th year) attended the 2008 International Whitman Seminar and Conference in Dortmund, Germany, and then presented a paper at *Metre Matters: New Approaches to Prosody* at the University of Exeter.

Wanalee Romero (3rd year) will be presenting a paper titled “Civil War in the Borderlands: Re-memembering the Civil War in Tina Juárez’s *South Wind Come*” at the MMLA during a panel titled “Power, Gender and Identity in Contemporary Narrative by Hispanic Women Writers.”

Gayle Rogers (Ph.D. 2008) presented a paper, “Waldo Frank and Hispanic Modernity,” at the 2008 annual conference for the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature at the University of Texas at Austin. His translation of Antonio Marichalar’s “James Joyce en su laberinto” (1924) will appear in the new volume of the *PMLA*’s Criticism in Translation series.

Joshua Smith’s (5th year) paper, “Multilingualism and the Welsh March: Walter Map’s *De nugis curialium*,” was presented at the 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, held earlier this year in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Furthermore, he is contributing an essay entitled “Jorge Luis Borges and his Study of Old English” to John Niles’s forthcoming (2009) book *Anglo Saxon Studies* (Blackwell: Oxford) in the popular Blackwell “Guides to Criticism” series. The volume is an orientation to the critical heritage of Anglo-Saxon studies from their origins in the early modern period to the present time, with reprints of key scholarly essays published since 1950.





Fellowships & Other Awards

Christie Harner (6th year) has earned a Weinberg Dissertation Writing Fellowship from the Northwestern College of Arts and Sciences for the 2008-09 academic year.

Jeff Knight (6th year) has been selected as one of this year's recipients of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/ACLS

(American Council of Learned Societies) Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

Greg Laski (3rd year) was awarded the 2007-08 English Department Award for Excellence as a Teaching Assistant.

Jenny Lee (4th year) served as a Searle Center Teaching Assistant Fellow during the 2007-08 academic year.

This year's Debbie and Larry Brady Graduate Fellowship has been awarded to **Liz McCabe** (6th year), granting her funding throughout the 2008-09 academic year. In addition, she was awarded the 2007-08 English Department Teaching Excellence Award.

Nathan Mead (intrepid Graduate Program Assistant), making a rare personal appearance in these pages, was chosen as the recipient of the 2008 WCAS Dean's Quality Award. The award is given out annually to a member of the College staff who "has shown that they are exemplary in communication, service focus, efficiency and leadership." Being selected in spite of these criteria is not something to which Nathan intends to object, and he plans to use the prestige and riches accompanying the award to continue his fight against evil. Or to start one, if he realizes that he's not yet gotten around to it in the first place.

This winter, **Scott Proudfit** (Ph.D. 2008) was appointed the divisional delegate for the MLA's Division of Drama, a position he will hold for the next three years.

Now in its second year, the Larry Lipking Newberry Fellowship has been awarded to **Wendy Roberts** (4th year), who will be conducting research at the Newberry Library and participating in its programs during this coming winter.

Gayle Rogers (Ph.D. 2008) was chosen to receive the 2007-08 Hagstrum Prize for Best Dissertation for his recently defended project entitled "British Modernism and Ortega's Spanish Vanguard: Cosmopolitan Visions of Europe, 1922-39."

Wanalee Romero (3rd year) has become our most recent student to earn a Diversifying Faculty in Higher Education in Illinois Fellowship. She also received additional financial support in the

form of a Summer Language Grant from the Graduate School, which she used to study Spanish in Oaxaca, Mexico.

The winner of the English Department Strand Prize in 2007-08 was **Michael Slater** (3rd year), for his essay "A Poetics of 'Transfixion': Rape and Allegory in *Faerie Queene III*."

Joshua Smith (5th year), has earned one of this year's IHR (Institute for Historical Research) Mellon Dissertation Fellowships, while also winning a Fellowship for Short-Term Study from the English-Speaking Union. In addition, he was awarded a Dissertation Travel Grant from the Medieval Academy of America, which will help fund his travel to and within the UK while he spends the 2008-09 year conducting research. He garnered further support last year from a Graduate School Summer Language Grant, allowing him to take an intensive Welsh course at the University of Wales in Aberystwyth over this past summer.

We are pleased to announce that **Abram Van Engen** (5th year) is the latest recipient of the Northwestern University Presidential Fellowship, the most prestigious fellowship offered by the university. Along with the two years of funding carried by the award, Abram has become a member of the university's Society of Fellows, a group meeting twice a year with other Fellows from across the university.

A number of our students were designated as recipients of Graduate Research Grants this past year from our Graduate School. They, and the titles of their projects, include:

Christie Harner "Victorian Anxieties: Social Typing and Narrative Production in the Condition-of-England and Sensation Novel"

Heidi Kim "Untold narratives of the Japanese American internment"

Liz McCabe "Reforming Primitive Culture: Progress, Reform, and the Theory of Survival in Victorian Fiction and Anthropology"

Four Virgil Heltzel Fellowships were awarded for this coming year, giving one quarter of funding each to **Chris Clary**, **Anna Fenton-Hathaway**, and **Brent Mix**, all 6th year students. **Scott Proudfit** (Ph.D. 2008) used his funding to support his final summer of work on his dissertation.

Anna Fenton-Hathaway and **Jeff Knight** have both earned Dissertation Year Fellowships from the Northwestern Graduate School, though Jeff Knight will be supported by his Mellon Foundation Fellowship instead.

Additionally, **Chris Clary** and **Brent Mix** each earned two quarters of funding for the coming year from the Graduate School in the form of Research Fellowships. As with the Alumnae Fellowship, both the Dissertation Year and Research Fellowships have been discontinued, their funds reapportioned to provide all 5th year students with Fellowship funding instead.



The Graduate Colloquia



The **American Cultures Colloquium** at Northwestern saw the completion of its seventh successful year of programming at the end of the 2007-08 academic year. This year's Colloquium will be co-chaired by **Nathan Leahy** and **Wendy Roberts**. The ACC@NU brings "Americanists" from different academic specialties and institutions into dialogue with one another, allowing scholars using multiple intellectual approaches to participate in conversations about a shared set of cultural artifacts and contexts. Last year the ACC@NU was pleased to host speakers from fields and disciplines including English, musicology, history, political science, queer studies, Latino studies, film studies, and African American studies. Our events regularly drew large audiences of faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, and alumni from across the university into provocative conversation with elite scholars from around the country. The ACC@NU would like to thank Northwestern University's Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities; departments of English, History, Political Science, Religion, Radio/Television/Film and the Center for Screen Cultures; the American Studies, Asian American Studies, and Comparative Literary Studies programs; and the Globalizing American Studies Project for making these events possible. We look forward to another exciting series this year, starting with a talk from Michael Denning (Yale, English) in November.

American Cultures Colloquium



This fall, the **Long Nineteenth Century Colloquium** at Northwestern welcomed Sankar Muthu (University of Chicago) to speak on "Global Connections in Enlightenment Political Thought" at their first event of the year. During the Winter and Spring quarters, the LNCC is pleased to host Jennifer Green-Lewis of George Washington University and Mary Roberts of the University of Sydney.

Long Nineteenth Century Colloquium

The LNCC would like to thank the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities and Northwestern University's Departments of English, Art History, and Political Science for making possible this exciting group of speakers for 2008-09. Please contact us at lccc.nu@gmail.com for more information or to be added to the email list.



early modern colloquium

The **Early Modern Colloquium** is an interdisciplinary group that meets several times per year to discuss early modern literature, history, and culture. Last year's successful run of events included speakers such as Bruce Smith (USC), Lynn Enterline (Vanderbilt), Kristen Poole (Delaware), Bradin Cormack (U Chicago), and our own Will West and Martin Mueller. This year's series of events features several exciting speakers, including Michael Schoenfeldt (Michigan), Mary Floyd-Wilson (UNC), Brad Gregory (Notre Dame), and Alan Galey (Toronto).



We are grateful to everyone who has donated to the department over the past years. It is with your continued support that we are able to offer our graduate students the many opportunities for research and professionalization funding available to them. Here we list, with thanks, some of our most generous donors from recent years.

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