

Musings

Fall 2011

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

English Graduate Newsletter

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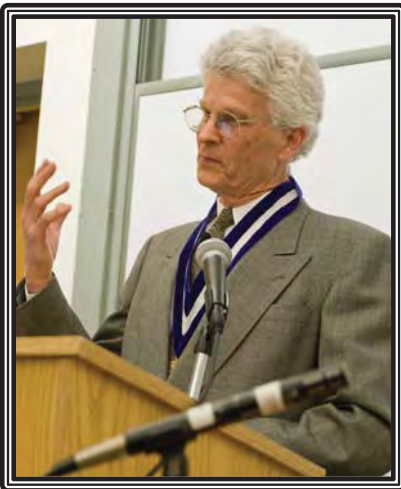

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New Faculty

From the Chair

We often are reminded these days that these are difficult times for the cause of higher education in the humanities, that budgetary and other trends are running against us. This marvelous issue of *Musings* ought to persuade anyone that reports of the demise of “English” have been greatly exaggerated. Its survey of the year’s events in the Northwestern English Department gives evidence of an exhilarating abundance of intellectual and creative energy and of a host of notable individual accomplishments. Research by our faculty, we learn, has ventured across a constellation of the most varied and fascinating topics (early modern kitchen lore; an iPhone/iPod app for tracking the Chicago Fire; Heloise and Abelard; and much else); our graduate students have crisscrossed the country and the world visiting archives and delivering scholarly papers; a bumper crop of gifted new graduate students at both the doctoral and M.A. levels has arrived in University Hall to carry on the heritage of the department. Take the time to give *Musings* a more than cursory read. You will find it as impressive as I have, and as heartening in its message for those of us whose vocation lies in the ever more enriched and diversified world of literary studies.



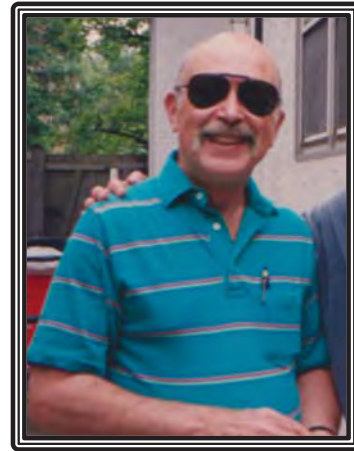
Harris Feinsod (A.B., Brown University, Ph.D., Stanford) teaches 20th- and 21st- century U.S. and Latin American literature and culture. His research focuses on comparative poetics and the history of poetry in English and Spanish; modernism and the historical avant-gardes in Europe and the Americas; transnational literary studies (especially the history of hemispheric or “inter-American” literary and cultural relations); and the relation between postmodernism and the inter-ethnic cultures of the U.S. “new west.” He is a former Geballe Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center and he is a College Fellow at Northwestern in 2011-12. His articles have appeared in *Telos* and will be published in the forthcoming edition of the Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics, for which he is an assistant editor. He blogs occasionally at *Arcade: Literature, Humanities and the World*.

Professor Feinsod’s current book project, “Fluent Mundo: Inter-American Poetry,” is a literary history of the relations between poets in the U.S. and Latin America in an era of cultural diplomacy, from the intensification of the Good Neighbor Policy at the onset of World War II through the cultural policy initiatives of the 1960s. Reading major poems by Bishop, Cardenal, Carrera Andrade, Ginsberg, Hughes, Lezama Lima, Neruda, Olson, Stevens, Williams and many others, “Fluent Mundo” tracks interchanges between state-sponsored transnationalism and avant-garde poetics, demonstrating how the evolving experience of hemispheric relations informed several generations of diverse mid-century poets in vanguard milieus and the halls of diplomatic officialdom. The book revises prevalent views on the ethics of translation, the utility of poetry, and accounts of dominant period styles, unearthing the ways that poets from discrete national contexts across the Americas understood the promise of an “inter-American poetry.”

i n m e m o r i a m

Lawrence Gove Evans (Ph.D. Harvard 1961), Emeritus Associate Professor in the English Department at Northwestern University, died November 20, 2011 in Chicago. Over the course of a 40 year career, Professor Evans taught courses in the English Department ranging from freshman seminars and introductory English literature courses to graduate seminars in his area of interest, late Victorian literature, and served on numerous doctoral committees. He coordinated English courses for the Northwestern University's Evening Divisions' starting in 1969, and was the Director of Undergraduate Studies in English. His edited *Letters of Walter Pater* was published in 1970 (Oxford). Professor Evans retired from Northwestern University in 2001.

He is remembered fondly by the many students with whom he worked across four decades of teaching in the department. Steven Rozenski, one of Professor Evans's last students (now finishing his Ph.D. in English at Harvard), writes, "I don't think I'd ever had someone believe in me quite like he did before. Without that confidence my freshman year, I'd never have taken the risky leap to the humanities, and would've stuck to Neuroscience."



Larry Evans
1935-2011

A Word from EGSO

The year promises to be another one full of collaborations between the English Graduate Student Organization (EGSO), the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), and the department Chair on streamlining and improving the graduate student experience in the department. This Fall was kicked off by the annual department Collation, where we were delighted to hear interesting and provocative talks by Assistant Professor Emily Rohrbach and 6th-year Graduate Student Wanalee Romero. Almost as delightful was the fact that it ended on time for the first time in recent memory!

After Collation, we had our annual "Welcome to the Program Party," which brought together graduate students from all years under one merry roof. Two weeks later, we had our annual Fall Town Hall, setting the agenda for EGSO's activities in the coming year. Among this Fall quarters events have been the ongoing 1st-year buddy and ABD mentor programs, as well as the quarterly EGSO Colloquium, at which we heard papers from Kara Johnson and Alanna Hickey. Additionally, we hosted a Professionalization Workshop focusing on the nuts and bolts of archival research, enlisting the expertise of Katy Breen, Rebecca Johnson, and Wanalee Romero. We are happy to welcome the twelve new members of our graduate student community, and look forward to having them as friends and colleagues for the next several years!

The Winter and Spring quarters promise to hold a similar range of events, with a continued focus on maintaining close contact with the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair, improving the graduate student experience throughout one's time in the program, and on providing our graduating students the best preparation and support we can as they go out onto the job market and into the wider academic world.

Carissa Harris & Whitney Taylor

EGSO Co-chairs

Chanelle Gregersen & Elizabeth Rodriguez

EGSO Student Representatives

Marie Pantojan

EGSO Archivist

Graduation & Placement

Megan Brown (M.A. 2011) graduated this past Spring, having completed her thesis titled “Slavery and Sickness in Willa Cather’s *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*” under the direction of Professor Julia Stern.

Ashley Byock (Ph.D. 2008) began a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor of English at Edgewater College in Madison, Wisconsin in the Fall.

Chris Clary (Ph.D. 2010) defended his dissertation, “Early Modern Theatre and the Culture of Collecting,” in September, of last year, and has been teaching as an adjunct lecturer at Pace University in New York.

Christie Harner (Ph.D. 2010) taught for the department this past year as a Visiting Assistant Professor, having defended her thesis titled “Character Science and its Discontents: Victorian Literary Interventions into Debates About Phrenology and Physiognomy” in September of 2010. She has recently taken up a post as the Development Officer in Quality in Learning and Teaching at Newcastle University in the U.K..

Jeff Knight (Ph.D. 2009) assumed the rank of Assistant Professor of English in a tenure-track position at the University of Washington, Seattle that began in the Fall.

Josh Smith (Ph.D. 2011) has departed for Gainesville, Arkansas to take up his new tenure-track post as an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Arkansas. He defended his dissertation, “Literary Encounters in the Anglo-Welsh Borderlands, 1138-1400,” in May.

Abram Van Engen (Ph.D. 2010) assumed his position as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of English at Trinity University in San Antonio in January, having defended his dissertation, “The Sentimental Puritan” in October, 2010.

New Graduate Students

Toby Altman (Ph.D.) graduated from Swarthmore and Deep Springs College. Since then, he’s been working as a community organizer in Kensington, a blue collar neighborhood in northeast Philadelphia. In college, Toby studied a loose mixture of English, Classics and Philosophy, and in graduate school is planning to work on the history of the body, gender theory and early modern theater.

Sonia Arora (M.A.) received her B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College, spent three years teaching at high schools out east, and another three years as an Assistant Director of Admission and as the Director of High School Programs at the University of Chicago. She’s eager to return to literature and writing. During her tenure at Northwestern, she plans to study 20th-century American literature, literature of the African diaspora, and non-fiction. Beyond that, she is interested in Gender Studies, American Civilization Studies, Drama, and the teaching of writing.

Meaghan Fritz (Ph.D.) graduated with a B.A. in English and Spanish Literature from Georgia State University in 2007. She spent the next two years studying 19th-century British and American Literature at Georgetown University, earning her M.A. in the spring of 2010. Meaghan is obsessed with 19th-century American reform movements, print culture, and sentimental novels. She wrote her thesis on the editorial practices and performances of Maria Weston Chapman and

Julia Griffiths and their gift books, *The Liberty Bell* and *Autographs for Freedom*, respectively. Before coming to Northwestern, she worked at Georgetown University’s Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship (CNDLS); and when not working enjoyed living with her sister, cooking and eating decadent French food, practicing hot yoga (to compensate for the French food), and spending as much time as possible in the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress.

Eric Hengstebeck (Ph.D.) earned his B.A. in English at Rollins College. His primary interests include 19th-century American Literature and Critical Theory; his favorite authors are Herman Melville and Walter Benjamin. Eric’s secondary interests include aesthetics, German Idealism, and popular culture. He is specifically interested in the history of the concept of revolution

and its influence on literature, particularly with respect to how democracy and global citizenship are imagined in American art and culture. When he is not reading and writing he likes to visit art exhibits and argue about aesthetics during long walks through parks. In addition he enjoys making slow progress through his movie queue, grateful that Netflix has no late fees. Eric is also a former yoga instructor and deeply interested in questions of embodiment. Some of his favorite embodied activities include exercising at the gym, eating organic food, and sleeping—though not necessarily in that order.

Tori Kraft (M.A.) recently graduated from the University of Chicago with a B.A. in Mathematics and in English, so her papers tend to use ‘thus’ and ‘therefore’ too much. Her English honors project presented an explanation for the problematic ending of *Jane Eyre* by conceptualizing St. John’s relationship with Jane as an intentional and psychologically successful seduction. Her specialization will likely be in a similar vein, 19th-century British Literature, though she may end up in 20th-century American, or 16th-century British, or God knows what else. She is particularly interested in the concept of literature as reality and the amorphous genre of magical realism. She is originally from Birmingham, Alabama, and therefore loves air conditioning and doesn’t understand why Chicagoans can’t do it properly. In her spare time, she fences, reads comics, and watches Doctor Who.



Carli Leone (Ph.D.) received her B.A. in English from Ohio State University in 2010. Her undergraduate thesis explored the political underpinnings of Shakespeare adaptations in colonial America between 1750 and 1774. In graduate school, she would like to continue research in this vein by looking at how various genres and literary forms in 18th- and 19th-century America engaged with politics as the colonies transformed into a republic and a nation. Before coming to Northwestern, she spent the last few months of her “year off” working at a teahouse in Columbus’s Short North Arts District.

Gabby Lewis (M.A.) was born and raised in London and completed her undergraduate degree at Bristol University in the UK, whose program covers British Literature across seven centuries but has granted much less time to American Literature; an imbalance she’s looking forward to addressing in the coming year. Her undergraduate project broadly focused upon Freud’s discussion of the individual and the ego in relation to the works of the Nigerian novelist, Chinua Achebe. Her other interests include the theatre, swimming, tennis, and ballet. She spent the beginning of her summer working in the media centre of the tennis championships at Wimbledon, organising the player television interviews and trying to persuade Rafael Nadal to marry her.

Sarah Roth (Ph.D.) hails from Ann Arbor, Michigan, and earned an English B.A. at the University of Michigan; as a result, she is ill-adapted to habitats other than college towns. After graduating, she spent years more or less on the road, earning an M.A. from Brandeis University, teaching high school English in Jackson, Mississippi, working with kids at a Virginia domestic violence shelter, and coaching bad softball teams in three states. An addiction to 19th-century novels, and to other reading material she can’t admit to here, led her back to her academic interest: the way that British novels of the long 19th-century (and analogous modern forms) mediate cultural conversation and cross-over. When she’s not on Goodreads, her Kindle, or at the library, Sarah finds time to read aloud to her husband and two-year-old daughter.

Seth Swanner (Ph.D.) was born in Athens, Alabama, where he later spent an impressive majority of his home and academic life surrounded by quaint little cow pastures. He first discovered

his love for interdisciplinary literary studies when, along with a B.A. in English, he received from Birmingham-Southern College a ludicrous sheaf of other documents, including disparate minors in Philosophy and Biology. He pursued an M.A. at the University of Alabama, where he studied 17th-century drama and poetry, modes of subjectivity, and sometimes (to get mileage out of that Biology minor) theories of pathology.

Tanushree Vachharajani (Ph.D.) completed her undergrad at St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai, and then her M.A. at the University of Mumbai in India. Afterwards, she taught modern American and British Literature at an undergrad college there. Her research interests are strongly interdisciplinary (seeping into art and cinema), and her work uses Literary and Critical Theory to analyze the workings of everyday life. She grew up in four different cities and wants to learn at least three more languages other than the ones she knows. She previously worked as a communications associate under the huge Texan skies.

Simone Waller (Ph.D.) received her B.A. at Miami University and grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is particularly interested in concepts of race and gender as articulated in Early Modern Literature and Drama, as well as Early Modern appropriations of a classical Greek and Roman heritage. Her past research has revolved around the genre of revenge tragedy and the political implications of its metatheatrical elements.

Sarah Wilson (Ph.D.) graduated from the University of North Texas in May 2011, where she double majored in English and Philosophy and received the “Outstanding Undergraduate” award in both departments. At UNT, she wrote a thesis on Julian of Norwich in which she concentrated on the problems inherent in the gendered bifurcation of affective piety and negative theology, along with completing a research fellowship that focused on the concept of pleasure in penitential manuals. She intends to continue exploring sex and gender issues as they cluster around medieval mysticism and religious culture, and she is especially interested in 20th-century philosophical engagement with mystical texts. She spent most of her life in Dallas, Texas, and is, consequently, petrified of the impending winter season. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and eating generally, exploring Chicago, and, more recently, collecting coats and sweaters.

Faculty Publications

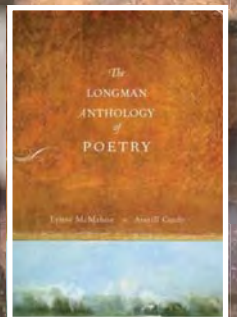
Breslin, Paul & Ney, Rachel
(translators)

The Tragedy of King Christophe by Aimé Césaire

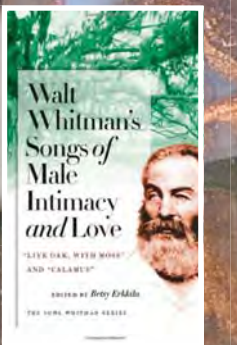


Curdy, Averill & McMahon, Lynne
(co-editors)

Longman Anthology of Poetry



Erkkilä, Betsy ed.
Walt Whitman's Songs of Male Intimacy and Love: "Live Oak, With Moss" and "Calamus"



Erkkilä, Betsy ed.
Ezra Pound: The Contemporary Reviews



Faculty News

Eula Biss received a 21st Century Award from the Chicago Public Library last fall in recognition of her book *Notes from No Man's Land*. Her essay "In the Syntax" appeared in the spring issue of *Fourth Genre* and her essay "About On Trout," a close reading of Anne Carson's *Short Talks*, is forthcoming in *Understanding the Essay* (Broadview Press 2011). This past spring she was awarded a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship and a Howard Foundation Fellowship to support her work on a new book about myth and metaphor in medicine.

Katharine Breen is thoroughly enjoying being newly tenured and on leave. She is taking advantage of a year-long Charles A. Ryskamp research fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies to work on her second book, *Engines of Thought: Experimental Allegory, 1200-1500*. She tried out a piece of that book project, on the poem *Wynmere and Wastoure* as an allegorical *ars poetica*, at the Mellon Symposium on Medieval Subjectivity at the end of July, and reports that it was one of the scariest conferences she had been to for a long time. Somehow – she attributes it to Barbara Newman's influence as organizer – everybody was on their 'A' game in both the lectures and question and answer sessions, and so there were all sorts of peer pressure to be smart and useful. As a result, she has lots of notes to guide her further research this fall.

Averill Curdy was promoted this past year to the rank of Continuing Lecturer.

John Alba Cutler's essay "Eusebio Chacón's America" was published in the spring 2011 issue of *MELUS (Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States)*. Also in the spring, he presented a talk on "Chicana Poetry and the Specter of La Malinche" at the Evanston Public Library as part of the Evanston Northwestern Humanities Series. He continues to co-organize the Newberry Library Seminar in Borderlands and Latino Studies and next summer will spend a week participating in research activities at the Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas in Mexico. He is completing a draft

of a book manuscript on assimilation in Chicano literature.

Nick Davis spent the summer working to complete his manuscript draft of *The Desiring-Image: Gilles Deleuze and Contemporary Queer Cinema* and writing a new article called "I Love You, Hombre: /Y tu mamá también/ as Transnational Bromance" for a collection forthcoming from Palgrave. This fall he will appear on a cross-disciplinary Northwestern panel devoted to "Teaching Sex," publish a short article on teaching queer theory in the newsletter of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, and give a presentation on his course English 386: Henry James and Film (offered for the second time this Fall) at the annual meeting of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning. He will also be reviewing the cutting-edge features at the Chicago International Film Festival, where he will serve on the jury for the Short Film competition.

Tracy C. Davis's brand new edition of *The Broadview Anthology of Nineteenth-Century Performance* is due from Broadview Press in the coming months. She is now researching a family of mid-19th-century human rights campaigners who resided in London but worked with a global network of informants and collaborators. In September, Professor Davis launched a new project with The Graduate School: The Excellence in Mentoring Initiative.

Sheila Donohue was promoted to the rank

of Distinguished Senior Lecturer this past year, and she continues to work as a College Adviser in the WCAS Dean's Office.

Brian Edwards happily returns for a third year as DGS. The past year was busy. During the "Arab spring," he was called on frequently to comment in radio, TV, and print. In March, he traveled back to Cairo, shortly after Mubarak was forced from office. His essay "*Tabrir*: Ends of Circulation," which appears in the fall issue of *Public Culture*, incorporates his interviews with young Egyptian writers whose work he has been following. In April, he was a Fulbright Senior Specialist at the Università degli studi di Napoli "L'Orientale," lecturing in Naples and Rome. In June, he gave a plenary at the Dartmouth Futures of American Studies Institute, then traveled to Casablanca to complete research on the Morocco portion of his next book. In October, Brian traveled to London to serve on the selection committee of the UK Iranian Film Festival. He'll give invited lectures this year at Yale, Stanford, Univ. of Chicago, Univ of Illinois, Urbana, and Indiana Univ, South Bend, and speak at the annual meetings of ASA, MLA, and a conference in Beirut. Brian has new essays out this summer and fall in *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *REAL: Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature* (Germany), *Public Culture*, the *Blackwell Companion to Comparative Literature*, and a collection called *The Men Who Knew Too Much: Henry James and Alfred Hitchcock*.

Christine Froula delivered a paper titled "London 1917: Pound, Possum, and Propertius on War and Empire" at the International Ezra Pound Conference in London in July and was an invited participant in a workshop on Ronald Bush's forthcoming edition of *The Pisan Cantos* typescripts (Oxford 2013). She gave a post-performance talk, "Orlando Lives: Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* in Global Adaptation and Performance," at the University of Chicago's Court Theatre and lectured on the "Circe" episode of Joyce's *Ulysses* for the Evanston Public Library's year-long project "Mission Impossible: Reading



Joyce's *Ulysses*." John Austin's new opera *Heloise and Abelard*, for which she wrote the libretto, will have a concert (unstaged) performance at Harvard Memorial Church on January 29, with conductor Edward Elwyn Jones and renowned soprano Tony Arnold. Next spring she will spend a month as an invited research professor at the University Paul-Valéry's center for the study of Anglophone culture in Montpellier, France.

In June, **Reg Gibbons** gave a talk at the 75th-birthday celebration of the Romanian writer Norman Manea in New York. Also that month, he co-led two discussions for the American Writers Museum Foundation on the planning for a national literary museum to be established in Chicago, and has another two in October. Reg has been appointed a Fellow at Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington D.C., and will spend two weeks in residency there during 2011-12, working on an essay on the persistence of ancient poetics in the modern world. As of this fall, he is the Frances Hooper Professor of Arts and Humanities.

Jay Grossman published "Autobiography Even in the Loose Sense": F. O. Matthiessen and Melville" in *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* in March 2011. His essay, "Walt Whitman: Boy-friends and Politics," appears in the catalogue that accompanies the Chicago History Museum's landmark exhibition on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender history, *Out in Chicago: LGBT History at the Crossroads*.

Chris Lane gave an invited lecture on the history of psychiatric diagnosis at a September 2011 symposium on "Emotions and Medicine in the 20th Century" at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, in Berlin. He also gave an invited talk on Freud and Kraepelin at the University of Chicago symposium, "French-American Conversations on Psychoanalysis." Earlier this year, he published essays on religious doubt and the "new" atheism in the *Chronicle Review* ("When Doubt Became Mainstream"), the *New Humanist* ("The Benefits of Doubt"), and *Yale Book News* ("Christian Darwinism" and "Doubt, Dogma, and Britain's Sunday Law"). He continues to write a near-weekly blog for *Psychology Today* ("Side Effects"), with total hits rapidly approaching the half-million mark, and recently signed up to write

a fortnightly column for the *Huffington Post* on religion, science, and politics.

Jules Law was promoted this past year to the rank of Full Professor.

Susan Manning has finished her term as Chair and is now enjoying a year's leave to launch new projects. With support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, she is directing "Dance Studies in/and the Humanities," a multi-year, multi-campus initiative that will fund postdoctoral fellowships and intensive summer seminars at Brown, Northwestern, and Stanford from 2012 to 2016. She also is working as a dramaturge for choreographer Reggie Wilson, whose new work, based partly on Zora Neale Hurston's *Moses, Man of the Mountain*, will premiere at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 2013. Her coedited anthology, *New German Dance Studies*, will appear in spring 2012, and she plans another edited volume tracing the transnational history of modern dance and related forms.

Jeffrey Masten is teaching a faculty-graduate seminar at the invitation of the Folger Institute this fall, at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC. In February he will be lecturing at the Huntington Library-University of Southern California Renaissance Literature on Christopher Marlowe, early modern sexuality, and textual editing.

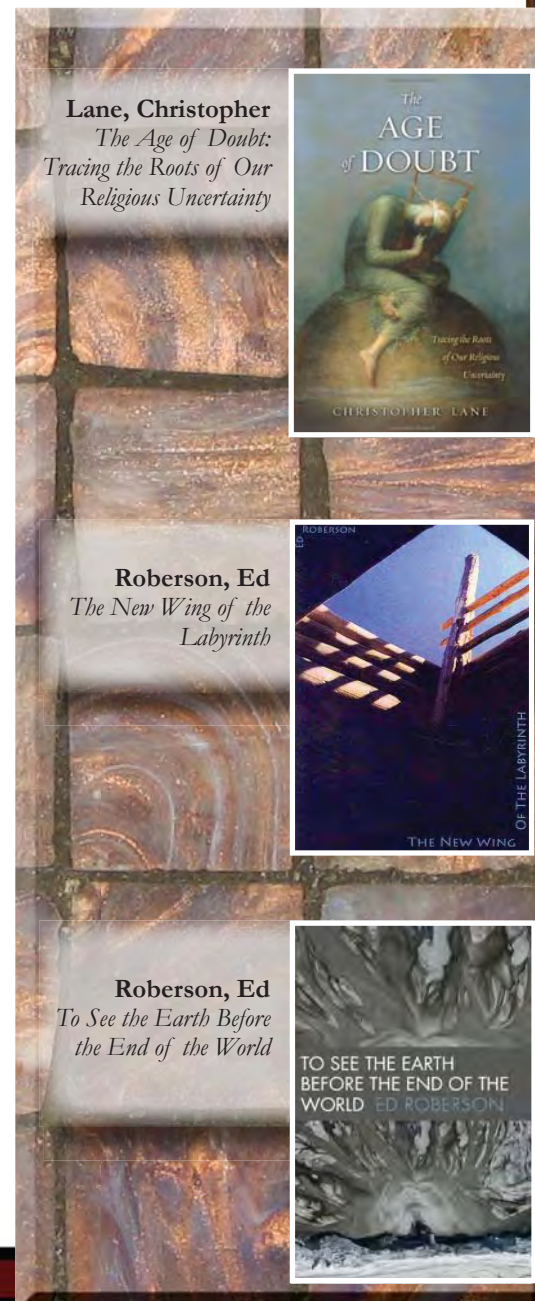
Evan Mwangi was tenured this past year, and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

Barbara Newman returns from leave this fall, having just finished her latest book, *Medieval Crossover: Reading the Secular against the Sacred*. In September of 2011 she delivered the Conway Lectures in Medieval Studies at Notre Dame, whose press will publish the book unless their readers truly loathe it. Its presiding muse is her cat Ozymoron, since it advocates a "hermeneutics of both/and" and a strategy of double judgment for reading texts where sacred and secular meanings clash, as they so often do in romance and parody. In July, Barbara had the pleasure of hosting the Mellon Symposium on Medieval Subjectivity, affectionately known as "MS squared" -- a weeklong extravaganza for 15 faculty and 25 graduate medievalists from across the land. She is thrilled to have placed all three of her recent Ph.D. students and

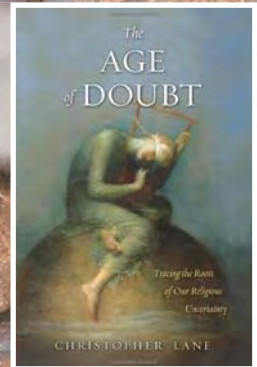
to have directed two prize-winning Honors theses in the last two years. This year she looks forward to classrooms full of fresh faces. So many texts, so little time!

Bill Savage was recently promoted to Distinguished Senior Lecturer, and continues to work as a College Adviser in the WCAS Dean's Office, along with publishing essays, articles and reviews in *The Chicago Reader* and the *Chicago Tribune*. Beyond the written word, he's been leading very successful tours for the Chicago History Museum (Chicago's

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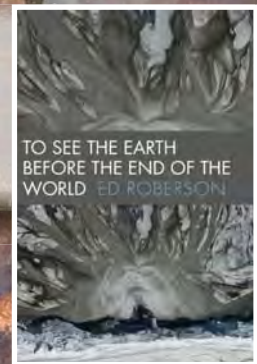
Lane, Christopher
The Age of Doubt: Tracing the Roots of Our Religious Uncertainty



Roberson, Ed
The New Wing of the Labyrinth



Roberson, Ed
To See the Earth Before the End of the World



Faculty News continued

Literary Infrastructure and Chicago's Yeast Side: Beer and Chicago History), consulting with local theaters on Chicago-themed productions (Clybourne Park at Steppenwolf and The Great Fire at Lookingglass), and moderating panels at the Printer's Row Lit Fest and the Chicago Humanities Festival. His editing work with the University of Chicago Press has just produced Dmitry Samarov's book *Hack: Stories from a Chicago Cab* (2011), and has in process Neil Steinberg's *You Never Were In Chicago* (forthcoming, 2012).

Laurie Shannon presented a keynote address (on night-time as an empire of the nonhuman) at the 22nd Barnard Medieval & Renaissance Studies Conference and gave lectures on the natural-historical politics of Genesis at the Huntington Library in Pasadena and at the Center for Humanities at the University of Miami -- topics drawn from her forthcoming book, *The Accommodated Animal* (Chicago, 2012). She also published essays in *PMLA* ("Greasy Citizens and Tallow-Catches") and in *Shakespeare: A Queer Companion to the Complete Works of Shakespeare* ("Lear's Queer Cosmos"). She is now outgoing chair of the MLA Division on Shakespeare.

Carl Smith served as curator and author of "The Great Chicago Fire and the Web of Memory," an online historical exhibit on the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which is available as both a website (at greatchicagofire.org) and a mobile app for the iPhone and iPod Touch (available through the Apple App Store--search under the title "Chicago Fire"). This is the result of a collaboration between the Chicago History Museum and Academic and Research Technologies at Northwestern. Among the many special features are the ten tours that encompass over fifty sites in Chicago today with a historical connection to the fire.

Glenn Sucich was promoted this past year to the rank of Senior Lecturer, and continues to work as a College Adviser in the WCAS Dean's Office.

Helen Thompson is an NEH fellow at the Newberry Library for the academic year 2011-12, working on her book "Fictional Matter: Empiricism, Secondary Qualities, and the Novel." Two articles derived from the project are forthcoming in *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* and *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*. She is giving a talk at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies this coming

March on "Mechanism, Hylomorphism, and Literary History: Reading Hooke's Mold."

This past April, **Wendy Wall** gave the Annual Folger Library Shakespeare Birthday Lecture, entitled, "Recipes for Thought: Shakespeare and the Art of the Kitchen." This lecture was coordinated with a Folger exhibition of materials on medicine, "Beyond Home Remedy." She also traveled to Prague to offer a paper at the International Shakespeare Association and published two articles from her book project, *Strange Kitchens: Knowledge and Taste in Early English Recipe Books*. Professor Wall felt woefully inadequate when speaking at a Food Studies Symposium in Dallas last fall, namely because the other keynote speaker, Chef Rick Bayless, made mole as part of his lecture on the history of Mexican cuisine. As of this fall, she is the Avalon Foundation Professor in the Humanities.

Will West is spending this year as NEH Fellow at the Huntington Library and as James M. Osborn Fellow at the Beinecke Library. He will also be presenting a workshop on the Elizabethan orange onstage at the Globe Theatre in London.

Fellowships, Awards, & Prizes

Ari Bookman (5th year) has been awarded an International Dissertation Research Fellowship by the Social Science Research Council. It will fund nine months of research in Kenya during the 2011-12 school year.

Vanessa Corredera (6th year) was a finalist this past April for the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper award at the College English Association in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Meghan Daly (3rd year) was the recipient of the 2010-11 English Department Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award.

Rickey Fayne (2nd year) was awarded a William Edward Burghardt Du Bois Library Fellowship by the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, to work with Du Bois's papers over the summer. Earlier this fall, he returned to Amherst to present his work.

Carissa Harris (6th year) won the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for 2011-12, as well as the Medieval Academy's Schallek Award.

Greg Laski (6th year) was a Lipling

Fellow at the Newberry Library during the Spring quarter of 2011.

Jason Malikow (7th year) received a Career Development Grant from The Graduate School, which he used to shamelessly self-promote during his job search over the past year.

Jackie Murdock (6th year) is the recipient of the 2011-12 Mellon Dissertation Year Fellowship in Medieval Studies.

Chris Shirley (5th year) was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to support nine months of research in London.

Abram Van Engen (Ph.D. 2010) was awarded the English department's 2010-11 Hagstrum Prize for Best Dissertation for his project titled "The Sentimental Puritan."

Jade Werner (5th year) will be continuing in her role as a Graduate Teaching Fellow with the Searle Center for the 2011-12 school year, and has also been appointed to be a 2011-12 Graduate Affiliate with the Alice Kaplan Institute.

Graduate Research

Vanessa Corredera (6th year) spent last year researching and writing her dissertation. She kicked off the academic term with a research trip to the Folger Shakespeare Library in September of 2010, where she inspected the marginalia of physiognomic tracts, poured over emblem books, and discovered interesting primary texts making their way into her dissertation. Further research is planned during a trip to England in the current Fall quarter.

Carissa Harris (6th year) spent part of the summer on a four-week research trip in Britain, sponsored by the Medieval Academy of America's Schallek Award, traveling from Cambridge to London to Aberystwyth to Edinburgh researching 15th- and 16th-century British manuscripts. As a bonus, she discovered some previously unpublished obscene Middle English riddles, and was able to view the first several recorded occurrences of the "f-word" in English.

Greg Laski (6th year) received a Graduate Research Grant from Northwestern's Graduate School, supporting trips to the Library of Congress to search through the papers of Frederick Douglass; those of Stephen Crane at the University of Virginia; and of Pauline E. Hopkins at Fisk University. His findings will feed significantly into his dissertation, which explores the ways these writers grapple with the persistence of racial servitude in a political system that privileges progress over recognition of the enduring past.

Last year, **Jackie Murdock** (6th year) took a research trip, funded by a Northwestern University Graduate Research Grant and a Schallek Award from the Medieval Academy of America, to London and Edinburgh where she examined 15th- and 16th-century Scottish manuscripts. She also conducted a research trip to the Huntington Library in the first week of June to look at more Scottish manuscripts and early printed books.

Wanalee Romero (6th year) returned to Evanston last Fall after a whirlwind of research trips for her dissertation: from The Wittliff Collections at Texas State University in San Marcos and the Nettie Lee Benson Library at University of Texas in Austin to

delve into the Jovita González archives, to the Josefina Niggli Papers in the Hunter Library at Western Carolina University in the beautiful Smoky Mountains, and finishing in the Century Company Records at the New York Public Library to read letters from María Cristina Mena to her publishers. She was awarded a Graduate Research Grant to immerse herself in the last of the González archives located in the Mary and Jeff Bell Library at Texas A&M in balmy Corpus Christi.

Chris Shirley (5th year) was awarded a Graduate Research Grant to support a month-long sojourn last December at the British Library in London, one of the three primary manuscript archives pertinent to his dissertation on reader identity in the Renaissance.

Jade Werner (5th year) travelled to London over the summer to visit the as-yet undigitized archives of late 19th-century missionary records and sermons held at the School of Oriental and African Studies and the British Library, work essential to her project tracing "cosmopolitanism" to its evolution in 19th-century England in connection with the rise and fall of British mission societies.

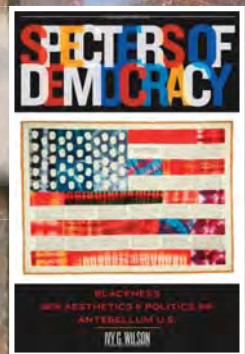
Seliy, Shauna
When We Get There



Smith, Carl
The Great Chicago Fire and the Web of Memory
(online historical exhibit and web app)



Wilson, Ivy
Specters of Democracy: Blackness and the Aesthetics of Politics in the Antebellum U.S.



Wilson, Ivy & Levine, Robert S.
(co-editors)
The Works of James M. Whitfield: America and other writings by a Nineteenth-century African American Poet





Heloise and Abelard notes on a libretto

Christine Froula

A great, enduring, passionate love between a world-shaking philosopher-poet and one of history's most brilliant and eloquent women, modern for her time and even today; cutting-edge science contending with faith; a child named Astrolabe; a shocking act of violence that sets all Paris mourning; churchmen no less conniving than visionary whose ruthless intrigues involving money, gender, and power would fund the new Gothic style and shape the future of European Christendom: can any subject offer richer material for an opera? When, thanks to an article by Barbara Newman, composer John Austin and I happened upon this medieval love story, we were captivated, as have been many novelists, playwrights, and composers. For us, it resonated with John's austere, melodic, polyphonic style and my interest in creative translations and adaptations that "Make it new."

Our opera draws on the lovers' famous letters, Abelard's autobiographical *Historia Calamitatum*, European love poetry from Propertius to the troubadours, voluminous biography, scholarship, and criticism, and some evocative field trips--walking the sea cliffs of St. Gildas-de-Rhuys where Abelard was abbot for a while, studying the famed astrolabe collection at the Adler Planetarium with curator Bruce Stephenson. Slowly the drama took shape in our minds, but for a long time the characters remained mute. Writings by Heloise, Abelard, Suger, Bernard of Clairvaux, and Peter the Venerable survive, but writing is not speech. Dramatic writing requires an idiom supple enough to allow the characters to give fresh, immediate voice to their motives, passions, and conflicts, their intellect, vision, and wit, without lapsing into antiquarian style or flat conventional talk. How to make them speak? After several false starts, Ezra Pound's free translations of troubadour poetry and of the ravishing tonal pyrotechnics he calls logopoeia or "the dance of the intellect among words" handed me the key. Hailing from Poitou, where the troubadours' art was born, Abelard was himself an early troubadour whose exquisite airs, Heloise wrote, kept his name on everyone's lips: "women sighed for you, and even the unlettered did not forget you." The intricate

musical wordplay of troubadour lyric is hard to capture in English, but Pound evokes it, as in the watchman's spare, free cry in "Langue d'Oc": "Up! Thou rascal, Rise, / I see the white / Light / And the night / Flies."

Late one summer I sat down to add progress notes to my ever-accreting H&A file. Instead out came the first scene. The muse--that Angel one propitiates by "keeping office hours" as Stravinsky put it--seized me. "Keep going," said the composer. Three weeks later we had the libretto, including Abelard's love song, which, much to her uncle Fulbert's distress, keeps Heloise's name on everyone's lips.

The 20th-century composer Gian Carlo Menotti, who like Wagner wrote his own libretti, described sending his librettist self out to lunch, so to speak, so that he could compose in peace. In opera, of course, the words serve the music. Early on John composed words and music for male chorus and percussion for the terrifying two-minute castration scene. Very late, he transformed a staged dialogue in which Heloise implores Abelard for a word in recognition of their past love into a poignant reverie in which she communes with his internalized voice as he sings offstage. Otherwise, apart from the streamlining of expressive language where the music renders it redundant, little has changed since the early version we showed to our generous colleagues Barbara Newman, Chris Herbert (who knew that he once worked in the archives of St. Denis?), and opera scholar Phil Gossett at the University of Chicago.

Opera is a challenge and adventure for composers and, at its best, one of the most exhilarating forms of storytelling because of the dramatic power of the lyric human voice. If any story cries out for the enhanced expressiveness of the embodied, living voice-- desiring, aspiring, acting, suffering, soaring and carrying listeners with it--it's this one. Heloise and Abelard chose us, and *Heloise and Abelard* aims to make their story, shot through with joy and high spirits, devastating suffering, and extraordinary dimensions of love, new for our moment.

Graduate Colloquia

American Cultures

The **American Cultures Colloquium** at Northwestern has completed its tenth successful year of programming. The ACC 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. Under the leadership of Rachel Blumenthal and Beth Corzo-Duchardt, the ACC welcomed nearly 300 audience members to seven events this year, which brought together a multi-disciplinary group of undergraduates, graduate students, faculty members, administrators, and Evanston residents. Speakers from English, History, African American Studies, and American Studies were all hosted, and their topics ranged from the American Tea Party movement to immigrant experience in southern Texas.

The 2011-12 colloquium kicked off the year with a two-day event in November: first a talk by **Lloyd Pratt** (University of Oxford), then a lively roundtable discussion with him about a pre-circulated paper. This year's series will include talks by a number of exciting scholars working in different disciplines: **Linda Zerilli** (University of Chicago), **Angela Ray** (Northwestern University), **Rick Altman** (University of Iowa), **Jill Lane** (New York University), and **Daphne Brooks** (Princeton University).

The ACC would like to thank its sponsors for their generous support of our programming: the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School, the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, African American Studies, American Studies, Art History, the Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies, Communication Studies/Program in Rhetoric and Public Culture, English, Gender Studies, History, Latina/o Studies, Performance Studies, Political Science, and Radio, Television & Film.

The 2011-12 American Cultures Colloquium will be co-chaired by Garret Morrison (English) and Leigh Goldstein (Screen Cultures).

Early Modern

The Northwestern **Early Modern Colloquium** is an interdisciplinary group of scholars and graduate students who meet regularly to attend lectures and to workshop essays and chapters-in-progress. This past year, the EMC joined the Northwestern University Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of English, and the Northwestern Graduate School in hosting a conference titled "The Poem's the Thing: Form, Matter, Affect." The conference featured twelve speakers and responses by Northwestern's own graduate students, all drawn together to consider the possibilities and paradigms for reading poetry in a new generation of scholarship. Participants included **Juliet Fleming** (New York University), **Richard Rambuss** (Emory), **Jeff Dolven** (Princeton), **Kasey Evans** (Northwestern), **Rayna Kalas** (Cornell), **Benjamin Saunders** (Oregon), **Lisa Freinkel** (Oregon), **Jenny Mann** (Cornell), **Molly Murray** (Columbia), **Cynthia Nazarian** (Northwestern), **Catherine Nicholson** (Yale), and **Marcy North** (Penn State). Other events last year included visits by **Martha Pollak** (Professor of Art History at the University of Illinois at Chicago) during the Winter quarter, and **Catherine Gordon-Seifert** (Professor of Music at Providence College) in the Spring.

This fall, the EMC was pleased to welcome **Heather James** (USC), who spoke on "Hamlet and the Extinction of Species" on October 20. In the spring, **Bill Sherman** will join the Early Modern Colloquium to deliver a talk entitled 'Of Anagrammatology: Decoding the Renaissance Text.' Details on additional events hosted by the EMC during the Winter and Spring quarters will be announced on their website, www.english.northwestern.edu/emc.

Papers, Conferences, & Publications

Ari Bookman (5th year) presented his paper "Local Critics, Global Capital: Editorial Practice as Social Critique in Kwani? Literary Journal" at the April meeting of the African Literature Association in Athens, Ohio.

Vanessa Corredera (6th year) presented a portion of her dissertation's first chapter entitled "The Forehead of Tamburlaine's Fortune: Astrological Physiognomy in Tamburlaine Part 1" at the College English Association in St. Petersburg, Florida this April. In November, she chaired the "Shakespeare and Shakespearean Criticism" section of the 2010 Midwest Modern Language Association.

At the 2012 Modern Language Association Convention in Seattle, **Melissa Daniels** (7th year) and **Greg Laski** (6th year) will preside over a special session on Kenneth W. Warren's new book, *What Was African American Literature?*, which claims that the black literary tradition ended with the legal abrogation of Jim Crow. A diverse group of scholars of African American literature, including Soyica Diggs Colbert, Adam Bradley, Sharon P. Holland, John Ernest, and Russ Castronovo, will assess this provocative thesis, and Warren will offer a response.

More recently, **Melissa** and **Nathan Leahy** (7th year) attended the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth in June.

Annalese Duprey-Henry (2nd year) presented a paper at the Newberry Library's Center for Renaissance Studies Graduate Student Conference entitled "Use, Conversion, and the Jew: Blood Libel, Host Desecration, and the Case of Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*."

Rickey Fayne (2nd year) presented a paper titled "Perusing the Essentials of Cool: Transmodernity and Progressive Black Masculinity in the Lyrical Narratives of Lupe Fiasco" at the January State of African American and African Diaspora Studies: Methodology, Pedagogy, and Research Conference at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York.

Anna Fenton-Hathaway (9th year) chaired a panel on "Transformative Research: 19th-century Literature" at the

2011 Humanities Education and Research Association Conference in San Francisco. The paper was entitled, "Plotless on Purpose: Narratives of Aging in Elizabeth Gaskell's *Cranford*." She also published "Charlotte Brontë, Mary Taylor, and the 'Redundant Women' Debate" in *Brontë Studies* (July 2010).

Carissa Harris (5th year) presented a paper called "Inserting 'a grete tente, a thrifty, and a long': Obscenity and Scribal Innovation in Fifteenth-Century Manuscripts of the Canterbury Tales" at the Illinois Medieval Association's annual conference at DePaul University in February, and another entitled "Multiplying 'Hir Croked Instrument': Pornographic Scribal Innovation in Idley's Instructions, Bodleian MS. Laud Misc. 416" in May at the 46th International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, MI.

Carissa presented at a further three conferences in July, which she swears she'll never do again. At the Early Book Society conference in York, she gave a paper entitled "The 'Tit-mose' and the 'Twachyll': Obscene Scribal Innovation in Idley's Instructions, Bodleian MS Laud Misc. 416." A week later, she presented "'My husbandis tente servith me not thus!': Obscene Scribal Innovation in 15th-Century Manuscripts of the Canterbury Tales," at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds. Finally, she presented a version of her third dissertation chapter, "Now ye speke of a tarse!': The Politics of Sexual Language in Middle English Secular Verse," at Northwestern's own Mellon Symposium on Medieval Subjectivity.

Finally, Carissa's article "Talking Turpiloquium: Gendering the Problem of 'Spekyng Rybawdy' in Idley's Instructions and Mirk's Fiestal" was published in the July issue of *Neophilologus*. Another essay, "Inserting 'a grete tente, a thrifty, and a long': Sexual Obscenity and Scribal Innovation in Fifteenth-Century Manuscripts of the Canterbury Tales," has been accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of *Essays in Medieval Studies*.

Eric Hengstebeck (1st year) presented a paper, titled "'A Lover of America': *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and the Essential Ambiguity of Desire," and chaired the panel on Globalization at the Midwest Popular Culture Conference in Milwaukee in October. Also, his review of Timothy Morton's *The Ecological Thought* was recently published in volume four of the journal *Specs*.

Alanna Hickey (2nd year) participated in the International Whitman Week seminar, hosted this past summer in Brazil.

Carolina Hotchandani (5th year) attended the British Women Writers Conference in Columbus, Ohio during April, presenting a paper titled "When Conduct Books Beget Misconduct: Rebellious Female Readers in The Histories of Some of the Penitents in the Magdalen House, as Supposed to be Related by Themselves (1760)."

Emily Izenstein (4th year) gave a paper entitled "Territories of Affiliation: Foreignness and Belonging in *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*" at the 2011 International Willa Cather Seminar at Smith College in June.

Maha Jafri (5th year) has an article, "Jamesian Sociability," that has appeared in the Fall issue of *The Henry James Review*.

Hosanna Krienke (2nd year) presented "The Roots of Action: Eliot and Lewes's Embodied Cognition" at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Conference in Claremont, California this past April. At the Spring EGSO Colloquium, she also presented her paper "Middlemarch's Cognitive Model of Sympathy."



Sarah Lahey (7th year) was in attendance at the Modern Language Association conference in Los Angeles, where she presented her paper “An Englishwoman in the South: The Global Politics of Race in Fanny Kemble’s *American Journals*.” She has an article entitled “Honeybees and Discontented Workers: A Critique of Industry in the Fiction of Louisa May Alcott” forthcoming in *American Literary Realism* 44.2.

Greg Laski’s (6th year) article, “Falling Back into History: The Uncanny Trauma of Blackface Minstrelsy in Spike Lee’s *Bamboozled*,” appeared in the fall 2010 issue of *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters*. He also chaired two panels at the 2010 Midwest Modern Language Association convention in Chicago this past November: a special session on “Frederick Douglass after Emancipation” and the permanent section on African American literature, which explored the concept of the “postracial.” At the Critical Whiteness Studies Symposium, held at the University of Iowa in September 2010, Greg Laski presented a paper entitled, “Making Amends, Then and Now: Frederick Douglass, Barack Obama, and the Politics of Racial Reconciliation.”

Jenny Lee (7th year) attended the “Seeing, Hearing, Reading and Believing: Authorities in the Middle Ages” conference at the University of Helsinki, Finland, as well as presenting “Confession and Literary Making in Gower’s *Confessio Amantis*” at the 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

One of **Jason Malickow**’s (7th year) photographs of Edith Wharton’s formal garden at The Mount was published by Routledge in Tom Turner’s *European Gardens: History, Philosophy and Design*.

Hugh McIntosh (6th year) has “Conventions of Closeness: Realism and the Creative Friendship of Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell” forthcoming from *PMLA*, and “Constituting the End of Feeling: Interiority in the Seduction Fiction of the Ratification Era” forthcoming from the *Early American Literature* journal.

Lorna Mellon (5th year) presented “‘The Lost Laughter of Comely Maidens’: Women in Post-World War II Emigration Discourse” at the Ireland & Modernity conference in Belfast, Ireland, and was the invited speaker for the School of English Staff & Postgrad Seminar Series held at Trinity College in Dublin, where she presented “The Modern Irish Woman and the Mid-Century Emigration Crisis: ‘Painted Parrot’ or ‘Comely Maiden?’”

Garrett Morrison (3rd year) presented his paper, “Labor, Gender, and ‘Separate Spheres’ in Sarah Orne Jewett’s *World of Dunnet Landing*” at the EGSO Winter Colloquium earlier this year.

Jackie Murdock (6th year) presented a paper at the 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies entitled “‘Treachor tongs’ and ‘true Scots’: Linguistic battles and problems of ethnicity in *The Flying of Dunbar and Kennedy*,” and will be presenting a paper at Natio Scotica: The Thirteenth International Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Scottish Language and Literature this July entitled “A battle of ‘trechour tungs’: Gaelic, Middle Scots, and the question of Scottish ethnicity in *The Flying of Dunbar and Kennedy*.” Her article “A Battle of ‘Treachour Tung[s]’: Gaelic, Middle Scots, and the Question of Ethnicity in the Scottish Flying” was accepted for publication by *Fifteenth-Century Studies* and will appear in their spring volume.

Laura Passin (6th year) gave a talk called “Adrienne Rich and Marilyn Hacker in Search of the Lesbian Love Sonnet” at the Formal Measures Colloquium at Princeton University, and also attended the International Whitman Week seminar in Brazil this past summer. Finally, she presented a paper called “Who Confesses in the Dream Songs?” at the Rocky Mountain MLA in Scottsdale, AZ.

Wendy Roberts (7th year) presented her paper, “Poetic Conversion and Evangelical Revision in the Life of James Ireland” at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies Friday Seminar Series. At the Society of Early Americanists, she chaired a panel on Early American Sentimentalism and Religion as well as presenting a paper titled “Promoting a Taste for Sound: Samuel Davies’s Poetics of Revival” on Davies’s poetics in the Sensual Histories panel chaired by NU alum Hunt Howell.

Elizabeth Rodriguez (3rd year) presented her paper “‘Stumbling with her will’: Rape, Consent, and the Law in Early Modern English Epyllia” at the Engendering Change conference here at Northwestern on May 20.

Wanalee Romero (6th year) presented a paper titled “The Cultural Work of Sentimentality in Josefina Niggli’s *Step Down, Elder Brother*” at the annual conference of the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS) in Pasadena, California. Another paper, titled “A Haunting Reality: The Gothic, Identity Formation, and Post-Revolution Mexico in Josefina Niggli’s *Step Down, Elder Brother* (1947)” was given at the conference of The Society for

the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS) in April.

Wanalee Romero (6th year) published a review in the most recent issue of MELUS (Spring 2011) for John González’s “Border Renaissance: The Texas Centennial and the Emergence of Mexican American Literature” (2009).

Alicia Sands (3rd year) presented “Human Persons in *King Lear* and *As You Like It*” at the Yale Symposium on Shakespeare and Renaissance Ethics last October.

Chris Shirley (5th year) presented “The Devonshire Manuscript: Reading Gender in the Henrician Court” at the Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada.

Jade Werner (5th year) attended the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association Conference, where she presented a paper called “Ambiguity and Africa: Revisiting David Livingstone’s Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa.” In August, she attended the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism Conference where she presented a paper called “‘The Improvement of the World’: Romantic Cosmopolitanism & the ‘modern’ Missionary Movement.”

Sarah Blackwood (Ph.D. 2009) is currently in her third year as an Assistant Professor at Pace University in New York City, and teaching a variety of classes including American Literature surveys, a seminar on nineteenth-century visual culture, a Feminist Issues in Literature class on narratives of domesticity and travel. She has been the Interim Director of the American Studies Program at Pace since this September.

Work continues on the revisions to her book manuscript; *The Portrait's Subject: Inventing Psychology in Nineteenth-Century America*. With a colleague at Hunter College, Janet Neary, the first steps have been made towards putting together a co-edited second book project, tentatively titled "*A More Perfect Likeness: The Nineteenth-Century African American Visual Imaginary*," a collection of primary materials produced by African American writers, artists, and illustrators that engaged and responded to the visual culture of the nineteenth-century. Sarah has had two articles on Henry James published in the last two years (in the edited book collection *Henry James in Context* from Cambridge University Press, and the other in the *Henry James Review*). In December, she'll be giving a talk at the New York Public Library on a photograph by Edwin Hale Lincoln, as a part of the Prints and Photographs Room's exhibition "A Century of Art."

Emily Bryan (Ph.D. 2005) is currently the Director of Education and Community Outreach for Shakespeare on the Sound, a Wisconsin-based non-profit theater company that produces free outdoor professional Shakespeare performances

After graduating with his degree, **Chris Buczinsky** (Ph.D. 1994) opened a children's literature performance company in the Chicagoland area, and wrote, performed, and illustrated a small, self-published book of children's verse called *Pied Poetry*. He was an Associate Editor of two trade magazines for a while, but returned to academics 10 years ago. He is now the English Program Director at Calumet College of St. Joseph, a small commuter college in Whiting, Indiana.

Beth Charlebois (Ph.D. 2000) was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at St. Mary's College of Maryland in 2007 and spent her sabbatical as the scholar in residence for Prison Performing Arts in St. Louis, a non-profit theater education program that teaches and produces Shakespeare plays with inmate actors. (PPA's production of *Hamlet* was featured in an hour-long documentary on NPR's *This American Life* entitled "Act 5" that you might have heard of). Her essay about her work at the women's prison in Vandalia, Missouri on a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is featured in a book entitled *Performing New Lives: Prison Theatre* (2010).

Katy Chiles (Ph.D. 2008) is putting the finishing touches on her book manuscript on racial formation in early American literatures, thanks in part to a summer stipend from the National Endowment from the Humanities.

Marcy Dinius (Ph.D. 2003) has recently moved from her position at the University of Delaware to take up a tenure-track appointment at DePaul University. In addition to the return to Chicago, her first book, *The Camera and the Press: American Visual and Print Culture in the Age of the*

Daguerreotype, is forthcoming in spring 2012 from the University of Pennsylvania Press. And though she just got back to Chicago, she'll be returning to the east coast in the spring for an NEH fellowship at the Library Company of Philadelphia to begin work on her next book on black radical writing. Lastly, an article from this project was published in PMLA ("Look!! look!!! at this!!!!": The Radical Typography of David Walker's Appeal." PMLA 126:1 (January 2011): 55-72).

Dan Gleason (Ph.D. 2007) is in his 5th year teaching at the Illinois Math and Science Academy. This year he became the chair of the English Department (technically the "Curriculum and Assessment Leader"), serves as Faculty Liaison to the Board of Trustees, and leads a school-wide initiative on sharing faculty scholarship and teacher resources online. In the past few years, he's published a few articles, including "The Visual Experience of Image Metaphor: Cognitive Insights into Imagist Figures" in *Poetics Today*, Fall 2009; and "Directed to See: Visual Prompting in Imagist Poems" in *Style*, Fall 2011.

Leah Guenther (Ph.D. 2005) is currently working with the Academy for Urban School Leadership (AUSL), an organization that trains teachers to turn around chronically underperforming schools in the Chicago Public School system. She completed a year-long teaching residency with a veteran teacher while getting her teaching certificate, and then last year was sent to Wendell Phillips Academy High School in Bronzeville. At the time, Phillips was the second lowest performing high school in the state, but Leah reports that it is on the path to gaining back its former glory. She remains there this year as a 9th and 10th grade English teacher, enjoying the chance to learn how to translate all that she learned about literature at Northwestern to an adolescent population on Chicago's South Side.

Last fall, **Bryan Hampton** (Ph.D. 2004) was granted the Dorothy and James D. Kennedy, Jr. Distinguished Teaching Professorship, as well as receiving tenure and promotion in the English department of the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. In terms of publications, his book "Fleshly Tabernacles: Milton & the Incarnational Poetics of Revolutionary England" is forthcoming from the University of Notre Dame Press in 2012. Also forthcoming is a review of the 2011 Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Production of *Julius Caesar*, to appear in "The Upstart Crow, Vol. XXX (Spring 2012)". Recently in print is "Purgation, Exorcism, and the Civilizing Process in *Macbeth*," *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900*. Volume 51, Number 2 (Spring 2011): 327-47.

Coleman Hutchison (Ph.D. 2006) is up for tenure this year at The University of Texas at Austin, where he continues to teach courses in 19th-century American literature, poetry and poetics, and bibliography and textual studies. In 2010 he won a Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, which is given by the University of Texas System and believed to be one of the country's largest awards for undergraduate teaching. Coleman spent the 2010-11 academic year as a Visiting Scholar at the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he completed the first literary history of the Confederacy. "Apples and Ashes: Literature, Nationalism, and the Confederate States of America" will be



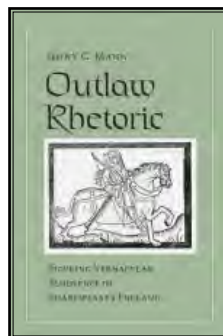
published in March 2012 in the University of Georgia Press's "New Southern Studies" series.

Deanna Kreisel (Ph.D. 1995) was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of English at the University of British Columbia, and her book, "Economic Woman: Demand, Gender, and Narrative Closure in Eliot and Hardy," is due out in December.

James Lang (Ph.D. 1997) is an Associate Professor of English and the Director of the Honors Program at Assumption College in Worcester, MA. His most recent book was published by Harvard University Press in 2008: *On Course: A Week-by-Week Guide to Your First Semester of College Teaching*. The next, also to be published by Harvard UP in 2013, will be *Speaking about Cheating*, a guide to dealing with academic dishonesty in higher education. He also writes a monthly column on teaching and learning for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and was just appointed to a five year term on the roster of Fulbright Specialists, which provides grantees with two-to-six week mini-grants to consult at overseas institutions.

Eric LeMay (Ph.D. 2002) has made the move from the East to the slightly-less East, now teaching creative writing at Ohio University. His recent book, *Immortal Milk: Adventures in Cheese*, was just featured for a second time in the Best Food Writing series, and he serves as Web Editor for *Alimentum: The Literature of Food*. His work has also appeared in *The Nation*, *The Harvard Review*, *The Paris Review*, *Gastronomica*, and *Poetry Daily*.

Jenny Mann (Ph.D. 2006), an assistant professor at Cornell University since 2006, will have her first book published in January of 2012 from Cornell University Press. Entitled "Outlaw Rhetoric: Figuring Vernacular Eloquence in Shakespeare's England," the book examines the substantial and largely unexplored archive of vernacular rhetorical guides produced in England between 1500 and 1700. Writers of these guides drew upon classical training as they translated Greek and Latin figures of speech into an everyday English that could serve the ends of literary and national invention. Working across a range of genres, Mann demonstrates the effects of the tension between classical rhetoric and English vernacular "outlawry" in works by Spenser, Shakespeare, Sidney, Jonson, and Cavendish. In so doing she reveals the political stakes of the vernacular rhetorical project in the age of Shakespeare.



Celia Marshik (Ph.D. 1999), now in her tenth year at Stony Brook, has returned to being a regular department citizen after a three-year term as graduate director. Work on her second book, which is tentatively titled "Fashioning Modernity" and examines the evening gown, mackintosh, fancy dress costume and secondhand garments in British fiction and culture between 1890-1940, occupies much of her time. Drawn from the ongoing project, an article entitled "The Modernist Mackintosh" is forthcoming in *Modernism/Modernity* in January 2012; "Smart Clothes at Low Prices: Alliances and Negotiations in the British Interwar Secondhand Clothing Trade" was published in *Cultures of Femininity in Modern Fashion*, edited by Ilya Parkins and Elizabeth Sheehan. Lebanon (NH) from the University Press of New England in 2011; and "Thinking Back through Copyright: Freedom and Fair Use in Virginia Woolf's Nonfiction." Came out in *Modernism and Copyright*, edited by Paul Saint-Amour from Oxford University Press in 2010.

Gayle Rogers (Ph.D. 2008) is an assistant professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh, where he is also affiliated with the European Studies Center and the Center for Latin American Studies. His book on comparative modernisms, *Modernism and the New Spain*, will be published by Oxford University Press in 2012. He has recent and forthcoming publications in *PMLA*, *Modernism/modernity*, *James Joyce Quarterly*, *Critical Quarterly*, *Global Modernisms*, *Journal of Modern Periodical Studies*, *TransLatin Joyce*, and *Escritores que cuentan el siglo XX*. He currently serves as the book review editor for *Critical Quarterly*.

Rachel Rosenberg (Ph.D. 1997) has had the pleasure of being employed at the University of Chicago Library as its Director of Communications since November 2007. Her largest ongoing project there to date has been communicating about the construction, opening, and imminent dedication of the Joe and Rika Mansueto Library.

Derik Smith (Ph.D. 2004) has been off the radar and on the other side of the earth for most of the last six years. In 2005 he left Arcadia University and went to work at Zayed University in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates. After three years there he went over to Muscat, Oman where he taught at Sultan Qaboos University from 2008 until this year. As of this fall, he has joined the faculty at SUNY Albany teaching African American literature.

Abram Van Engen (Ph.D. 2010) is in the first year of his appointment as an assistant professor at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. He's had two articles published in the last year; "Advertising the Domestic: Anne Bradstreet's Sentimental Poetics" in *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 28.1 (2011): 47-68; and "Puritanism and the Power of Sympathy." in *Early American Literature* 45.3 (Fall 2010): 533-564. Abram has also been the recipient of or finalist for a number of awards, including our own Hagstrum Prize for the Best Dissertation submitted in the 2010-2011 year, the McNeil Center for Early American Studies' Zuckerman Prize (finalist) for "the best dissertation connecting American history (in any period) with literature and/or art.", and the R.M. McFarlin Junior Faculty Summer Fellowship at Trinity University for 2010-2012.

John Young (Ph.D. 1998) is an Associate Professor of English at Marshall University in West Virginia. His list of recent and forthcoming publications include the following:

"William Plomer, Transnational Modernism, and the Hogarth Press," In Leonard and Virginia Woolf, *The Hogarth Press*, and the Networks of Modernism, ed. Helen Southworth (Edinburgh University Press, 2010): 128-49.

"'Murdering an Aunt or two': Textual Practice and Narrative Form in Virginia Woolf's Metropolitan Market." In *Virginia Woolf and the Literary Marketplace*, ed. Jeanne Dubino (Palgrave, 2010): 181-95.

"Iconic Pages in Robert Antoni's Fictions: A Speculative Edition." In *Editors, Scholars, and the Social Dynamics of Text*, ed. Darcy Cullen (University of Toronto Press, May 2012).

Publishing Blackness: Textual Constructions of Race since 1850, co-editor with George Hutchinson. University of Michigan Press, forthcoming 2012.

"'Quite as human as it is Negro': Subpersons and Textual Property in *Native Son* and *Black Boy*/'American Hunger,'" in *Publishing Blackness*.

We are grateful to everyone who has donated to the department over the 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 this past year.

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Musings

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*Designed & Edited by
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