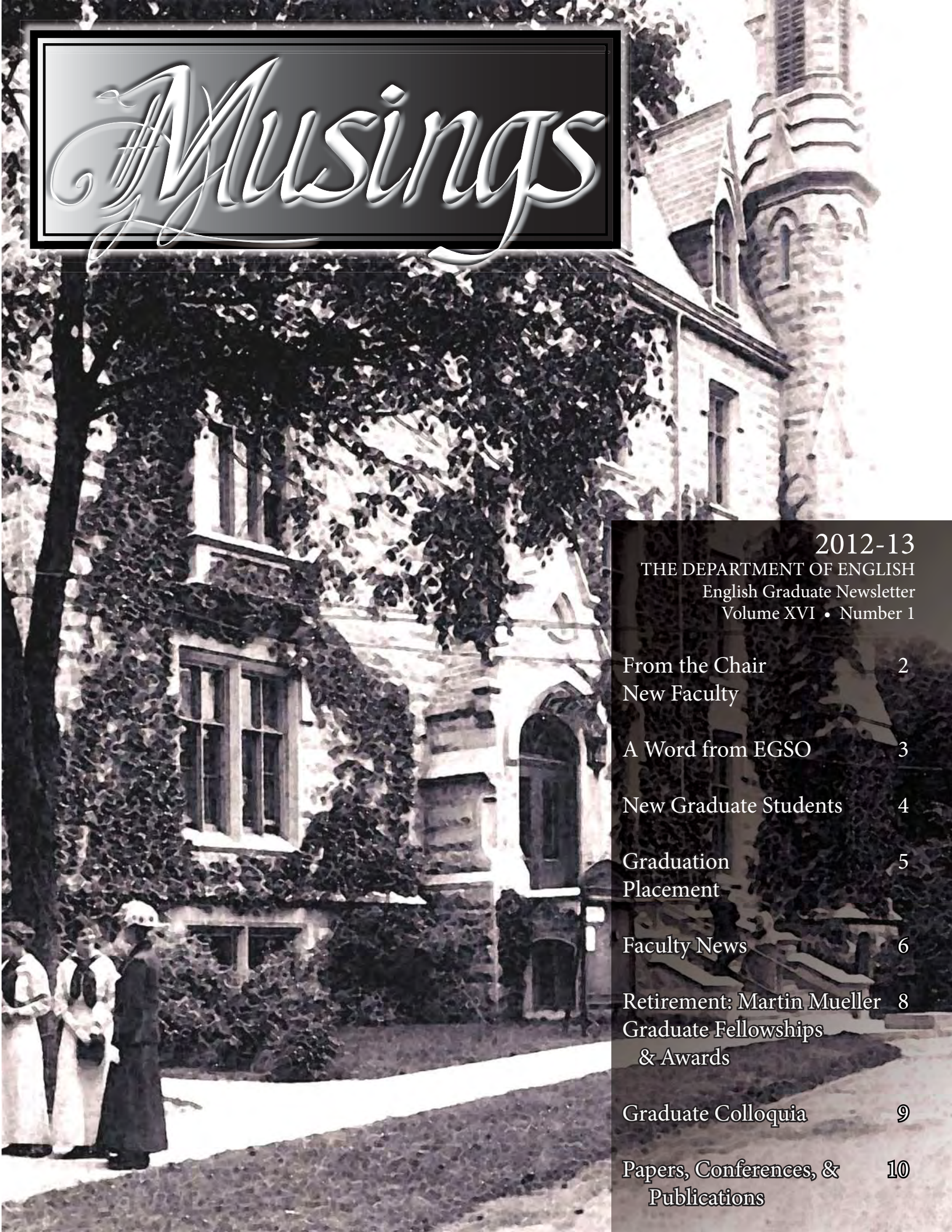


# Musings



2012-13

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

English Graduate Newsletter

Volume XVI • Number 1

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# From the Chair

We are very pleased to present you with this issue of *Musings*. Here you will find that the Northwestern English Department is very busy conducting business as usual, which is to say our faculty and graduate students are actively engaged and productive across a host of fields and subfields. While debates rage about outsourcing education, MOOCs (massive open online courses), and the perennial problem of funding for the larger humanities endeavor, research and experience alike continue to endorse the extraordinary value of the creative and critical dialogues conducted in our domain of the university.

From the study of paleography and permutations of handwriting in the English tradition, to techniques engaging the history of the book in the sixteenth century England or the nineteenth century US, to the analysis of visual culture, to the utilization of computing to generate “bigger data” in new, digital forms of textual research, our scholars continue to explore new methods by which to ask both new and continuing questions. As you will see here, innumerable faculty lectures and publications disseminate the fruits of our research, and our new and advanced graduate students are deeply engaged in activities from coursework, to conferences, to defending dissertations, to job placement.

We are very proud of the department’s achievements this year and hope you enjoy learning about them in *Musings*.

Laurie Shannon



## New Faculty

Andrew Leong (A.B., Dartmouth College; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley) is a comparativist who works in English, Japanese, Spanish and Portuguese. He is interested in democratic art, immigrant literature, vernacular visual culture, and studies of gender and sexuality.

Leong has taught courses on film noir and crime fiction, vagabondage, and modern Japanese literature and film. He has also translated two novels by Nagahara Shōson, a Japanese writer active in the Los Angeles area during the 1920s. These translations appear in a single volume: *Lament in the Night* from Kaya Press.

Leong is currently working on a book, *The City of the Migrant*, which recovers the writings of Japanese immigrants and sojourners who lived and worked in the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Through readings of works by Sadakichi Hartmann, Yone Noguchi, Arishima Takeo, Nagai Kafu, and others, Leong argues that Japanese men barred from the full rights and privileges of political citizenship staked claims to a literary citizenship forged through bonds of male homosocial friendship.



## A Word from EGSO

The English Graduate Student Organization (EGSO) spent the 2011-12 year pursuing projects that promoted the unity of the department's graduate students, continued fostering relationships between faculty and graduate students, and addressed academic and professional concerns of the graduate body. EGSO, chaired by Carissa Harris and Whitney Taylor, organized two professionalization workshops that covered topics requested by popular demand from the graduate students at EGSO Town Halls, including a workshop on conducting archival research and another on networking. We are grateful to the expertise of Professors Rebecca Johnson, Katy Breen, Jeff Masten, and Laurie Shannon for making these workshops such a success.

For a second year, EGSO also worked closely with another of our own students, Searle Center Graduate Teaching Fellow Jade Werner, who organized two incredibly useful teaching roundtables. Thanks to Professors Rebecca Johnson, John Alba Cutler, Susie Phillips, and Brian Edwards, as well as Jade herself, for contributing to these fabulous and productive events. Last year's coursework representative Elizabeth Rodriguez organized a number of events dedicated to fostering collaboration, support, and collegiality across cohorts, including a breakfast with first year students and their graduate student mentors, mock oral exams to assist second year students in preparing for the Qualifying Exams, and a meeting with first year students in anticipation of their First Year Reviews. In addition, EGSO held three quarterly colloquia, again organized by Elizabeth, where their colleagues Alanna Hickey, Kara Johnson, Meghan Daly, Marie Pantojan, Becky Fall, and Sarah Roth presented outstanding papers. Details can be found on page 10 of this newsletter, in the Graduate Student Conferences & Papers section.

The 2012-13 EGSO board has been continuing this fantastic work through the year. At the annual English Department Collation, faculty and graduate students alike were treated to wonderful talks by Professor Rebecca Johnson and advanced graduate student Chris Shirley. Many thanks to Department Chair Laurie Shannon and Director of Graduate Studies Susannah Gottlieb, as well as to our tireless department staff, for helping to make the Collation such a success.

As the year progresses, we are continuing our work of bringing productive programming and events to the English Department graduate student population, including coordinating professionalization workshops on publishing and early preparation for the job market, continuing our quarterly colloquia, holding Town Hall meetings, conducting mock oral exams, and assisting in the recruiting of new doctoral students. We are also working to create information packets to help guide graduate students in the years to come, including a "time line" for students to make sure they are on track to becoming strong job candidates by the time they go on the market.

We are so pleased to be representing our fellow English graduate students this year, and look forward to a successful and exciting second half of the year!

Becky Fall and Sarah Wilson, EGSO Co-chairs  
Meghan Daly, EGSO ABD Representative  
Alanna Hickey, Student Representative  
Seth Swanner, Archivist

# New Graduate Students

**Uta Ayala** holds a Master's degree from the Center for Medieval Studies at Fordham University, and received her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara. She works on high to late medieval English and Anglo-Norman literature, with a special interest in hagiography, romance, religious devotion, Christian materiality, and epistemology.

**Kellen Bolt** received his Bachelor's degree in English & American studies from the University of Kansas. His research interests revolve around 19<sup>th</sup>-century American literature & culture, immigrant & diasporic literatures, and theories of citizenship and nation-building. He is also very interested in the political nature of texts, especially literature's role in shaping public spheres.

**Mohwanah Fetus** is a Brooklyn native and a 2011 graduate from Brooklyn College with an undergraduate degree in English Literature. During her year off, Mohwanah worked retail (never again!) and as a contributing staff writer for ELIXHER.com - a blog dedicated to women of color. Her research interests focus on the synthesis of magic realism, intersectionality, post-colonialism, and spirituality within the African diasporic literary canon.

**Ean High** researches and writes about 20<sup>th</sup>-century American literature & culture, concentrating mainly on work produced during the Cold War. By and large, he is interested in American Postmodernism, histories of sexuality, and Truman Capote. Ean grew up in Indiana and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Earlham College in 2008.

**Lee Huttner** is a 2010 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where he studied English with a concentration in medieval and Renaissance literature, and also holds a Master's degree from the Draper Interdisciplinary Program in Humanities and Social Thought at N.Y.U., where he studied medieval and early modern literature alongside contemporary cultural and performance theory. Lee moved to Chicago from Philadelphia, where he worked as an educator and theater artist. His research interests include early modern poetry and drama, contemporary stagings of pre- and early modern plays, the intersection of literary and film/visual culture, premodern sexualities, and methodologies of performance.

**Chad Infante** is originally from the island of Jamaica, and received his undergraduate degree in Literature and Philosophy from the City University of New York. His area of specialization revolves around intra-subaltern conversations in literature.

**Andrew Keener** is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina. While earning his Bachelor's degree at Boston College, he took the opportunity to study abroad in Venice, where he became rather fond of water-bus transportation and an evening prosecco. More recently, in Spring of 2012, Andrew completed his Master's in English at North Carolina State University. His studies have focused mainly on the proliferation and suppression of continental culture on the early modern English book market, and have benefited greatly from bibliographic methods. At the doctoral level, Andrew hopes to pursue his interests in textual studies to shed light on conceptions of nationhood, language, and culture in Renaissance print. He also has

interests in gender studies and digital scholarly editing.

**Rebecca Krocak** hails from the Minneapolis area and is a 2011 graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College. During her time at Gustavus she worked at the college's newspaper and as a freelance editor for a children's book publishing company. This past winter, she had the wonderful opportunity to teach English in France for three months. Her interests include postcolonial studies and 19<sup>th</sup>-century British novels, specifically works by female authors.

**Todd Nordgren** grew up in a rather small town in the extreme north of Wisconsin. Earning his Bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, he studied English, Linguistics, and European Studies; his senior thesis focused on the bodily and material forms of literary structures and interactions. Before moving to Chicago, Todd worked for three years as the Field Director for the non-profit United Council of University of Wisconsin Students, which focuses on empowering students and organizing grassroots campaigns around issues of value, quality and the student experience. His current research interests include critical theories of body and text, semiotics, feminist theory and sexuality studies, as well as modern British literature, particularly experimental narrative modes and avant-garde forms.

**Antonio Papanikolas** grew up in the Bay Area, and received his Bachelor's degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 2010. He is interested in literary engagements with music and sound, with an eye towards 19<sup>th</sup>-century American literature (namely Emerson and Melville.)

**Stephanie Pentz** graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor's in English from John Carroll University, and assisted the English teachers at Seminar Schloss Bogenhofen in Austria in the year before beginning her studies at Northwestern. In future studies, she wants to focus on medieval English literature; her interests include the intersection of medieval and postcolonial studies, and cultural interactions in medieval England as they relate to its languages and literature.

**William Pierce**, a native of Park Ridge, Illinois, is excited to be returning to the Chicago area after studying English, Theatre and Renaissance Studies at Ohio Wesleyan University. During his senior year he did independent work exploring the relationship between melancholy and metatheatre in *Hamlet* and *The Anatomy of Melancholy*. His main interests include early modern drama and literary theory as well as theatre and performance studies, although his reckless curiosity often leads him to wade into the great works of philosophy. When not reading or writing, he enjoys swimming and listening to music from Bach to Beck.

**Scott Van Buskirk** grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and received his undergraduate degree in Secondary Education and English literature from Indiana University at Bloomington. He specialized in gender and sexuality studies as applied to modern English literature, and is interested in how the development of new media, internet publications for example, influence the creation of texts, as well as in the interaction between market forces, corporate editing, and text creation.

# Graduation

- Sonia Arora** M.A., thesis: "Centering the Periphery: Space, Hybridity, and New World Intimacies in The Pagoda by Patricia Powell"
- Vanessa Corredera** Ph.D., dissertation: "The Early Modern Face: Physiognomy on and off the English Stage"
- Melissa Daniels** Ph.D., dissertation: "Black Literary Realism and the Romance of Race"
- Anna Fenton-Hathaway** Ph.D., dissertation: "Novel Perspectives on Britain's 'Redundant Women'"
- Carissa Harris** Ph.D., dissertation: "Tokens, Tarses, and Naked Arses: Gender and the Politics of Body/Bawdy Talk in Late Medieval Britain"
- Sarah Lahey** Ph.D., dissertation: "The Ethnic Civil War: Minority Voices and Life-Writing of the Civil War Era"
- Greg Laski** Ph.D., dissertation: "The Present-Past: Race, Repetition, and the Temporality of American Democracy after Slavery"
- Jenny Lee** Ph.D., dissertation: "Confessio Auctoris: Confessional Poetics and Authority in the Literature of Late Medieval England, 1350-1450"
- Gabrielle Lewis** M.A., thesis: "'And vast Atlantic, not untry'd before': A discussion of Phillis Wheatley's transatlantic consciousness in relation to the revisions between the 1772 'Proposals' and the 1773 'Poems on Various Subjects Religious and Moral'"
- Hugh McIntosh** Ph.D., dissertation: "Entertaining the Union: Sensationalism, Northern Allegiance, and the Masses in Civil War Literature"
- Laura Passin** Ph.D., dissertation: "The Lyric in the Age of Theory: The Politics and Poetics of Confession in Contemporary American Poetry"
- Wendy Roberts** Ph.D., dissertation: "Redeeming Verse: The Rise of Revival Poetry in Eighteenth-Century British North America"

# Placement

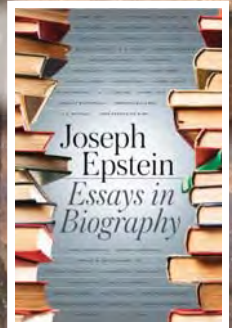
- Sonia Arora** (M.A. 2012) has taken up the position of Associate Director of Admissions at the Brentwood School in Los Angeles, California.
- In the fall of 2012, **Chris Clary** (Ph.D. 2010) began a 3-year Visiting Assistant Professorship at Emory & Henry College in Virginia.
- Melissa Daniels** (Ph.D. 2012) is in Los Angeles, California where she works as an instructor at Campbell Hall High School.
- Greg Laski** (Ph.D. 2012) embarked on a tenure track position over the summer as an assistant professor of English at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- Abram Van Engen** (Ph.D. 2010) accepted a tenure track position in the English Department at Washington University in St Louis, Missouri.
- Additionally, four of the recent graduates of our doctoral program were hired as Visiting Assistant Professors here in the department for the 2012-13 academic year:
- Carissa Harris** (Ph.D. 2012)      **Laura Passin** (Ph.D. 2012)  
**Sarah Lahey** (Ph.D. 2012)      **Wendy Roberts** (Ph.D. 2012)

# Faculty Publications

Davis, Tracy C.  
*Broadview Anthology of Nineteenth Century British Performance*



Epstein, Joseph  
*Essays in Biography*



Leong, Andrew  
 (translator)  
*Lament in the Night*



Shannon, Laurie  
*The Accommodated Animal: Cosmopolity in Shakespearean Locales*



# Faculty News

“Dust Off,” a video collaboration between **Eula Biss** and **John Bresland**, is featured in the current issue of *The Fiddleback*, and Eula Biss’ short essay on Anne Carson’s *Short Talks* is included in the newly released anthology *Understanding the Essay*. Biss’ second book, *Notes from No Man’s Land*, was selected as the Common Book at the University of Kansas this year. Last spring, Biss received a NEA Literature Fellowship to support her current work-in-progress on myth and metaphor in medicine, an excerpt of which appeared in the January issue of *Harper’s*.

**John Alba Cutler** published an essay on nationalism in the *Routledge Companion to Latino/a Literature* and presented work at several different venues in 2011-2012, including the American Studies Association annual convention, the C19 conference for 19th-century Americanists, and the Tepoztlán Institute for Transnational History of the Americas in Mexico. He continues to work on his book manuscript, *The Ends of Assimilation: Race, Gender, and the Formation of Chicano Literature*.

**Nick Davis** is completing revisions to his first book, *The Desiring-Image: Gilles Deleuze and Contemporary Queer Cinema*, to be published by Oxford University Press. A new essay on Alfonso Cuarón’s *Y tu mamá también* is to be included in a forthcoming anthology on the bromance genre, and he is now working on an article about sex work, adolescent girls, and issues of consent in recent global cinema (including material he presented this past fall to Northwestern’s Sexual Health and Assault Peer Educators), plus an essay about William Friedkin’s body of work for a collection on *The Boys in the Band*.

**Sheila Donohue’s** essay, “Hayden Carruth,” is coming out in the March issue of *Poetry Magazine* as part of its “Remembering Poets” series. Her lyric essay titled “Half-Life” was published in the 2012 double-issue of *Seneca Review*.

After completing a three-year term as DGS of English, and during the final year simultaneously serving as the director of Northwestern’s new Program in Middle East and North African Studies, **Brian Edwards** is a bit relieved to have a break from administrative tasks during 2012–13. Funded by a grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, he is on sabbatical this year, writing the manuscript for a book entitled “After the American Century: Ends of Circulation in Cairo, Casablanca, and Tehran.” Over the summer, he traveled to Ireland to teach a seminar on globalizing American studies at the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies. In September, he went to Doha

with seven other Evanston colleagues in Middle East studies to build ties with Northwestern’s campus in Qatar (NU-Q). He is editing a small volume of proceedings from a symposium held there—to be called “New Directions in Middle East and North African Studies: Working Papers from Northwestern”—which will be available in the spring. After Thanksgiving, he traveled back to Morocco to lecture on the Arab spring and attend the International Film Festival in Marrakech. Brian published a new essay in *American Literary History* this winter and has another forthcoming in the second edition of *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*, for which he wrote an essay on Islam.

**Joe Epstein** had his most recent book, *Essays in Biography* (Axios Press) published this past October, and has a second, *A Distant Intimacy, A Friendship in the Age of the Internet* (Yale U. Press) written in collaboration with the novelist and Oscar-winning screenwriter Frederic Raphael, due out in April.

**Kasey Evans** celebrated the publication of her first book, *Colonial Virtue: The Mobility of Temperance in Renaissance England* (University of Toronto Press) in December of 2011. Her article on John Donne, Christopher Brooke, and the 1622 massacre in Jamestown, Virginia appeared in the Spring 2012 issue of *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*. In April 2012, she presented a paper on “Figuring Resurrection in *Hamlet*” at the annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America in Boston. Late in the spring quarter, she was awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. With the support of a fellowship from the Alice Berlin Kaplan Humanities Institute, she is devoting 2012-13 to continued work on her second book project, provisionally entitled *Renaissance Resurrections: Making the Dead Speak in Reformation Texts*.

In summer, 2012, **Harris Feinsod** was a Mellon Fellow at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin, Texas, where he conducted research on the Mexico City poetry journal *El Corno Emplumado* for his current book project on inter-American poetry. In August, his entries on sound poetry, glossolalia, and hypograms were published in the 4th edition of the *Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*, for which he also served as assistant editor. At ACLA, he presented a paper entitled “Modernist Poetry Aship,” at the Modernist Studies Association in October he presented a paper on William Carlos Williams’ relation to Puerto Rico, and he led a seminar on the Poetry of the Americas.

**Christine Froula’s** “Proust’s China” appeared

in *Modernism/Modernity* last April. In April-May she was an invited visiting research professor at the University Paul Valéry, Montpellier III, France, where she conducted two seminars on genetic texts and ethical dimensions of creative imagination. She presented “Essaying the Art of Doubt: Woolf and Montaigne” at the *Virginia Woolf parmi les philosophes* conference in Paris and “Orlando Lives,” on global adaptations of Woolf’s fantasia, at Washington University; in June she will give an invited keynote address at the 23rd Annual Virginia Woolf Conference at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Forthcoming work includes “On Time: 1910, Character-Drawing, and Modernist Temporalities,” “Scribbling into Eternity: Paris, Proust, ‘Proteus,’” “Abstraction and Empire,” on American-born sculptor Jacob Epstein, “Sovereign Subjects: Stephen Dedalus, Irish Conscience, and *Ulysses’s* Utopian Ethos,” and, for two Cambridge *Companions*, “War, Peace, and Internationalism in Bloomsbury” and “War, Empire, and Modernist Poetry, 1914-1922.”

**Carissa Harris** presented numerous papers in 2012; “Smyt[ing] by-syde’ or ‘A tente of fyftene ynche’?: Articulating Gendered Sexual Subjectivities in Two Middle English Erotic Lyrics, Cambridge MS Add. 5943” at the Annual Meeting of the March Medieval Academy of America in St. Louis, MO; “Here is a pyntell of fayre lengthe!?: Gender, Genitals, and Speaking Sex in *A Talk of Ten Wives on Their Husbands’ Ware*” at the 47th Annual International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, MI in May; “In my cunte thou shalt crepe’: Enacting *Turpiloquium* in *The Castle of Perseverance*,” at the 18th New Chaucer Society Biennial Congress in Portland, OR in July; and “In he pult and out he drow’: Articulating Gendered Sexual Subjectivities in Middle English Singlewoman’s Songs” at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, UK, also in July.

**Sarah Lahey** delivered her paper, “The Color of Tara: Irish immigrants, Poor Whites, and Native Americans in *Gone With the Wind*,” at the 23rd Annual American Literary Association Conference in San Francisco, CA in May, 2012.

**Chris Lane** contributed commissioned essays this year to *The Sociology of Psychiatry* (Berlin: Springer-Verlag) and *The Literary Lacan* (the University of Chicago Press, both Winter 2013). He also wrote shorter essays for the peer-reviewed encyclopedias *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Health, Illness, Behavior, and Society* and *BRANCH: Britain, Representation, and Nineteenth-Century History*. At the “Espace analytique” conference in Paris, he gave an invited keynote address, “Neuropsychiatry and

the Unconscious; or, The Biological Subject," translated into French by Eliana Vagalau in the Department of French and Italian; in November, returning to Europe, he gave a keynote at the Swiss Science Journalists' Association meeting in Zürich on the pharmaceutical industry's sponsorship of and interference in the *DSM* revision process. The Danish translation of his book *Shyness: How Normal Behavior Became a Sickness* is due to appear shortly, and a Turkish translation is in preparation with Bankasi Kultur Yayinlari in Istanbul. Last November, Yale University Press brought out a paperback edition of his most-recent book, *The Age of Doubt: Tracing the Roots of Our Religious Uncertainty*. Throughout the year, Chris also wrote regularly for *Psychology Today* and the *Huffington Post*, on subjects ranging from "Evolution before Darwin" and "Biblical Homophobia" to "The Tranquilizer Trap," on benzodiazepines, and "Anti-*DSM* Sentiment in France."

**Jo and Larry Lipking** both took part this past July in the celebration, in Ithaca, of M. H. Abrams' 100th birthday. It was a remarkable event, highlighted by Abrams' own lecture and the publication of his new book. All the activities, including Jo's reminiscences and Larry's brief talk, are recorded on the Cornell website. This spring Larry will be the Abrams Distinguished Visiting Professor at Cornell. He has also published two review-essays online, on Bobby Fischer and on relations of science and literature, in *The Book*, the online satellite of *The New Republic*.

**Susan Manning** spent the 2011-12 year on leave launching new projects. As Principal Investigator for "Dance Studies in/and the Humanities," she oversaw the appointment of Mellon Postdoctoral Fellows in Dance Studies at Brown, Stanford, and Northwestern, and she also hosted the inaugural Mellon Summer Seminar in Dance Studies at Northwestern for a week in June, 2012; this project will continue for the next three years. Another unexpected project came her way when Brooklyn-based choreographer Reggie Wilson invited her to work as a dramaturge on his new production (project) *Moseses Project*, which will have its New York premiere at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in December 2013. Assisting Reggie, she created a research website for his collaborators, where she posted materials on Zora Neale Hurston, Ohad Naharin, Zar, Nubian culture, and fractals. In a more conventional mode, she gave the keynote at *Dance Under Construction* last February, addressing the topic of "Archives in Motion" with a paper titled "Archives in Collision." Currently, she is completing an essay on "*Stormy Weather* and the Historiography of Black Performance" for the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook on Dance and Theatre*. She presented a version of the paper at the inaugural symposium for the Black Arts Initiative at Northwestern last September.

**Jeffrey Masten** recently uncovered the second extant copy of Christopher Marlowe's tragedy *Edward II*, in the Universitätsbibliothek Erlangen-Nürnberg. The story of its early owner and its binding with treatises on heresy, religious toleration, and Islam, "Bound for Germany: Heresy, sodomy, and a new copy of Marlowe's *Edward II*," was published in *The Times Literary Supplement* in December. Prof. Masten lectured this fall at Brown and the University of Michigan, delivered a keynote lecture at the Society for Textual Scholarship conference in Austin in May, and gave the History of the Book lecture, on "Queerer Book History," at the Newberry Library in January 2013.

**Barbara Newman** published articles this year on various topics, including literate women in the twelfth century, Latin and the vernaculars, gender in Christian mysticism, the Prague pogrom of 1389, and most unexpectedly, organ transplants ("Exchanging Hearts: A Medievalist Looks at Transplant Surgery"). Her book *Medieval Crossover: Reading the Secular against the Sacred*, is in press with Notre Dame, to appear this spring. In assorted classroom antics she developed a multimedia course on medieval liturgy (with husband Richard Kieckhefer), devised a Latin crossword puzzle, and worked up a performance of *The Wreck of the Deutschland* for six astonished students in a poetry seminar.

**Laura Passin** attended the Plath Symposium 2012 at Indiana University, serving as dramaturge for a performance of the play "The Blood Jet Is Poetry, There Is No Stopping It: An exploration of the shared poetic language of Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes." At the 2011 Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Convention in Scottsdale, AZ she presented her paper "Who Confesses in The Dream Songs?" and "Writing 'the secret city': Public Space and Private Ecstasy in Mark Doty's *Homo Will Not Inherit*" at Northwestern University's 2012 Queertopia Conference in Evanston, IL.

**Wendy Roberts** presented "'The Sound in Faith': Ralph Erskine's Gospel Sonnets and the Poetic Form of Calvinism" at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual American Literary Association Conference hosted in San Francisco, CA in May, 2012.

As a Fellow at the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, **Emily Rohrbach** is spending her full year of leave completing her manuscript, "Modernity's Mist: British Romanticism and the Poetics of Anticipation." In spring 2012, she presented an invited paper on Austen and narrative theory at the International Society for the Study of Narrative conference in Las Vegas, and in July, she traveled to Beirut to present her work on concepts of time in Byron's *Don Juan* at

the International Byron Society conference. Her essay "'Must the event decide?' Austen and Byron in Search of the Present" appeared in the *Keats-Shelley Journal* in autumn 2012.

**Regina Schwartz** gave the annual Shannon-Clark Lecture at Washington and Lee last spring along with leading their annual faculty retreat, and spoke at the Renaissance Society of America on "Milton's Areopagitica and the liberal tradition." This fall, she spoke at Notre Dame in a colloquium, "Is Reconciliation Possible: The Meaning of Justice after Massive Injustice."

**Laurie Shannon** was elected as a trustee of the Shakespeare Association of America in spring of 2012, after rotating off the MLA Executive Committee of the Division on Shakespeare. At SAA, she co-convened a seminar on "The Nonhuman Renaissance" with Andreas Höfele of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich. In March, she gave a plenary talk called "Animal Happiness and Human Depravity: Humanist Quarrels with Human Exceptionalism" at the "Renaissance Posthumanisms" conference at Rice University, and, in September, a talk entitled "Perfect ... in Her Kind" at a conference celebrating the career of Jonathan Goldberg at Brown University. Her new book, *The Accommodated Animal: Cosmopolitanism in Shakespearean Locales* (UChicago Press), was published in December of 2012.

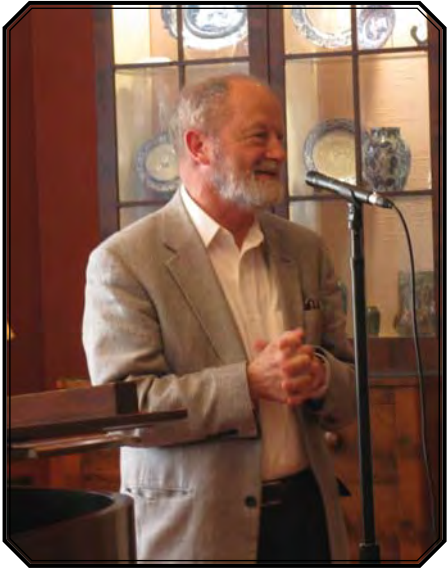
Artist in Residence **Rachel Jamison Webster**, has had a book of poems, *September*, accepted for spring 2013 publication by Northwestern University Press. She has poems that appear in the current issue of *Prairie Schooner*, will be in the March issue of *Poetry*, and are forthcoming in *Narrative Magazine*. Her poetry will also be included in a visual art exhibition called "Mind the Gap" at the University of Wisconsin. She also is producing a radio series about poetry for Chicago Public Radio called *The Gift*.

After a year as an NEH Fellow at the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA, **Will West** began the 2012-13 academic year tanned, rested, and ready. While on leave, Will presented papers at the Globe Theatre in London on the orange as performer; on English comedians in early modern Germany (UC-Irvine); on intertheatricality (Rutgers); and on Shakespeare's secularity at the Shakespeare Association of America.

## Retirement : Martin Mueller

Martin Mueller, Professor of English and Classics (Ph.D. Indiana University) joined Northwestern University in 1976. At Northwestern he held various administrative positions, including Director of Comparative Literature (1976-81), Director of the Humanities Program (1979-81), Chair of the English Department (1983-90), and Acting Chair of Hispanic Studies (1997-99). He also served as chair of the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI).

His primary research field has been the uses of ancient epic and tragedy by European writers since the Renaissance. He has also written on Homer and Shakespeare. His current work focuses on the uses of information technology for philological inquiries. Professor Mueller sent us the following update for inclusion in this year's newsletter, which illustrates just how actively he continues to pursue his work.



*Martin Mueller and Phil Burns have received a grant from the Mellon Foundation to support the improvement of MorphAdorner, a Natural Language Processing tool suite whose special strength lies in its ability to process Early Modern textual data. The Mellon grant matches contributions from the Committee on Institutional Cooperation's Centre for Library Initiatives, Proquest, as well as from Northwestern's Academic and Research Technologies, the Library, and Kellogg's Ford Center for Global Citizenship.*

*Work on this project will focus on the EEBO-TCP (Early English Books Online - Text Creation Partnership) corpus, currently ~35,000 titles and scheduled to grow to 70,000 by 2015 when the texts will begin passing into the public domain. You can think of it as adding a third level of cataloguing to the two levels that already exist: the bibliographical cataloguing at the top-level of each document and the cataloguing of internal structure, in which distinct textual segments (lines of verse, prose paragraphs, quotations, notes, lists, tables, and the like) are identified. Linguistic annotation works at the lowest level of textual structure and introduces some rudiments of readerly knowledge in a form that a machine can process. Where do words and sentences begin and end? A harder question to answer than you might think. What language does this word belong to? Is it an adjective, verb, noun, proper noun? What 'lemma' or dictionary entry form should this spelling be associated with? Etc.*

*Why bother with such granular cataloguing when the facts in most cases are obvious to the reader? If they are made obvious to (or processable by) a machine, which has no understanding of them, the triple catalogue of bibliographical, structural, and linguistic data allows for very fast "cross-walks" across the universe of Early Modern print culture. Our goal will be to produce a complete annotated corpus of all EEBO-TCP texts. By the time we are done – sometime in late 2013 – new versions of such search engines as Philologic will allow users to explore the data of this corpus and take full advantage of the query potential of the digital surrogate.*

The staff of the English Department office would like to extend special thanks to Martin for his many years of work both with us, and on our behalf. He has always treated us with great respect, showed us much appreciation, and was active in creating opportunities that have enabled us to achieve success in and beyond Northwestern. We appreciate everything he has done for us, would like to say thank you, and wish him many happy, healthy, and rewarding retirement years.

## Graduate Fellowships & Awards

Alanna Hickey (3<sup>rd</sup> year) was the recipient of the 2011-12 English Department Teaching Award for Excellence as a Teaching Assistant.

Carolina Hotchandani (6<sup>th</sup> year) was awarded the 2011-12 English Department Teaching Excellence Award.

Maha Jafri (6<sup>th</sup> year) was awarded the 2011-12 Weinberg College of Arts and Science Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award, and received both the two-year Northwestern University Presidential Fellowship and the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship.

Greg Laski (Ph.D. 2012) received the 2011-12 Jean H. Hagstrum Prize for Best Dissertation for "The Present-Past: Race, Repetition, and the Temporality of American Democracy after Slavery."

The Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University awarded Wendy Roberts (Ph.D. 2012) a Provost's Research Grant for the 2012-13 academic year for her book project on the evangelical long poem in the early Republic

Elizabeth Rodriguez (4<sup>th</sup> year) was selected as a Graduate Fellow in Legal Studies at Northwestern University.

Winter Werner (6<sup>th</sup> year) was awarded the Victorians Institute Patrick Scott Prize for Best Graduate Essay, as well as the Midwest Victorians Studies Association Arnstein Prize for Dissertation Research in Victorian Studies. In addition, she was recipient of both a Graduate School Professionalization Grant to promote the Digital Humanities at Northwestern and a Graduate Teaching Fellowship with the Searle Center for Teaching Excellence.



# Graduate Colloquia

## American Cultures Colloquium

The American Cultures Colloquium (ACC) at Northwestern is into its twelfth 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 Garret Morrison and Leigh Goldstein, the ACC welcomed nearly 300 audience members to six events last year, which brought together a multi-disciplinary group of undergraduates, graduate students, faculty members, administrators, and Evanston residents. The ACC hosted speakers from English, History, African American Studies, and American Studies, whose topics ranged from judgment in the works of Hannah Arendt to the place of sound technologies in early film.

The 2012-13 series includes talks by a number of exciting scholars working in different disciplines: **Beth Bailey** (Temple University), **Laura Kipnis** (Northwestern University), and **Heather Hendershot** (Queens College). In addition to the speaker series, the ACC has also beginning a workshop in which participants will discuss pre-circulated works-in-progress by Americanist scholars at Northwestern.

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 2012-13 American Cultures Colloquium is co-chaired by

**Rickey Fayne** (English)

**Linde Murugan** (Screen Cultures)

**Faye Gleisner** (Art History)

<http://www.english.northwestern.edu/acc/index.html>

## Long Nineteenth Century Colloquium

The Long Nineteenth Century Colloquium (LNCC), co-chaired this year by Marie Pantojan and Hosanna Krienke, supports the Northwestern community of 19<sup>th</sup>-century British scholars in their engagement with state-of-the-field discussions across academic disciplines, research interests, and stages of career. Last year, we welcomed **Andrew Stauffer** (Virginia) to campus and heard his lecture on 19<sup>th</sup>-century sentimental reading practices and the future of digital humanities. The 2012-13 speaker series includes **Blakey Vermeule** (Stanford), **Sharon Marcus** (Columbia), and **Fredrik Albritton Jonsson** (University of Chicago).

In addition to the speaker series, the LNCC's graduate community events this year include a reading group on Bruno Latour's *Reassembling the Social*, co-sponsored by the British Studies Cluster, and a library resources workshop. All forthcoming events are announced on the LNCC's website:

[www.english.northwestern.edu/lbcc/index.html](http://www.english.northwestern.edu/lbcc/index.html)

## Early Modern Colloquium

The Northwestern Early Modern Colloquium (EMC) is an interdisciplinary group of scholars and graduate students who meet regularly to attend lectures and to workshop essays and chapters-in-progress. Last fall, the EMC welcomed **Heather James** (USC), who delivered a talk entitled "Hamlet and Species Extinction." In the winter, **Benedict Robinson** (Stony Brook University) shared his current work on affect in a talk entitled "Resentment." Wrapping up the year, **William Sherman** (University of York) led a workshop on early modern punctuation and gave a talk, "Of Anagrammatology: Decoding the Renaissance Text."

This fall, the EMC was pleased to welcome **Niall Atkinson** (University of Chicago). In the winter, **Valerie Traub** joined the EMC for a talk about her current project, while **Margreta de Grazia** will present on her recent work in the spring. Details on additional events hosted by the EMC during the year are announced on the colloquium's website: [www.english.northwestern.edu/emc](http://www.english.northwestern.edu/emc)

# Graduate papers & Conferences

## Northwestern English Graduate Student Organization 2011-12 Colloquium Series

The Graduate Student Colloquia offer English department graduate students a constructive forum in which to present their work to their colleagues. Sponsored by the Department of English and the English Graduate Student Organization, the Colloquia are run by graduate students for graduate students. Participation in the Colloquia develops and extends graduate students' professional skills both as speakers and as members of academic audiences.

### Fall, 2011

- Alanna Hickey** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) – “A Nation that ‘cannot be compassed’: Mapping Exile in Longfellow’s *Erangeline*”  
**Kara Johnson** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) – “Living Pictures, Invisible Hands: the Body as (Male) Commodity in *The House of Mirth*”

### Winter, 2012

- Marie Pantojan** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) – “Marriage Law Reform and the Novel: Rethinking the Courtship Plot in Bronte’s *Jane Eyre*”  
**Meghan Daly** (4<sup>th</sup> year) – “‘Would you blot out Heaven’s workmanship?’: Racial Disguise and Rhetorical Blackening in Brome’s *The English Moor*”

### Spring, 2012

- Becky Fall** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) – “‘The Point is this’: Pointless Pleasures in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*”  
**Sarah Roth** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) – “Managing Margaret: Making the Borderlines of Victorian Gender in Gaskell’s *North and South*”

As a recipient of the 2010-11 W.E.B. DuBois Library Fellowship, **Rickey Fayne** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) gave a talk at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst in September 2011, titled “The Will to Achieve: Philosophy and Psychology in Service of Social Action in W.E.B. Du Bois’ Pan-African American Consciousness.”

## OCTOBER, 2011

### Conference on John Milton Murfreesboro, TN

Every other fall, the English Department and MTSU host a conference devoted to the work of the great British poet John Milton (1608-74). The conference, established by Professor Emeritus Charley Durham, was originally called the Southeastern Conference on John Milton but is now simply *The Conference on John Milton*. Miltonists all over the U.S. refer to it familiarly as “*The Murfreesboro Conference*.” The conference is attended by approximately one hundred people and brings scholars to Murfreesboro from all over the world.

- Raashi Rastogi** (4<sup>th</sup> year) – “Milton’s Dismembered Subject: Exploring the Prevalence of the Object in *Lycidas*”

- Alicia Sands** (4<sup>th</sup> year) – “Actors and Patients in *Samson Agonistes*”

### Massachusetts Center for Interdisciplinary Renaissance Studies Graduate Conference Amherst, MA

The Renaissance Graduate Conference is held annually at The Massachusetts Center for Interdisciplinary Renaissance Studies, an internationally leading center for the study of the culture and achievements of the Renaissance period.

- Simon Nyi** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) – “Crossdressing, Pedagogy, and the Gendered Boy Subject in *Twelfth Night*”

## Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Annual Conference Milwaukee, WI

The Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association is a regional division of the national PCA/ACA. The annual conference aims to promote the study of popular culture throughout the world by actively trying to identify and recruit new areas of inter- and multi-disciplinary scholarly exploration.

- Eric Hengstebeck** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) – “The Reluctant Fundamentalist and the Essential Ambiguity of Desire”

## Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Convention Scottsdale, AZ

The Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, one of six independent regional branches of the Modern Language Association, is a non-profit, professional organization, established in 1947 to promote critical inquiry, teaching, and research in the fields of languages, literatures, and the humanities by holding a convention every fall for the presentation and discussion of research in these and related fields

- Rachel Blumenthal** (6<sup>th</sup> year) – “Women, Madness, and ‘Secret’ American Histories: Keckley’s Ailing White House and Wakefield’s Hysterical War”

## “Charles Dickens: Past, Present, and Future” Victorians Institute Conference Myrtle Beach, SC

The Victorians Institute exists to foster the study of Victorian literature, history, art, mores and politics through conference and the publication of papers. The 41st annual conference focused broadly on the literary life and legacy of Charles Dickens in relation to science, economics, psychology, sociology, philosophy, law, history, aesthetics, and theater and film adaptation.

- Winter Werner** (6<sup>th</sup> year) – “Competing Cosmopolitanisms in *Bleak House*”

## NOVEMBER, 2011

### “Before Madison Avenue: Advertising in Early America” American Antiquarian Society Conference Philadelphia, PA

Before the rise of the modern advertising agency, with its creative departments, media buyers, and account executives, advertising saturated the media of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century North America. How did individuals and businesses make sense of the constantly changing media that were available to them, and how did early American consumers respond to printed, spoken, or illustrated inducements to buy?

- Hugh McIntosh** (Ph.D. 2012) – “Victorian Viral: ‘Sensation’ Advertising in Mid-Nineteenth-Century America”

## JANUARY, 2012

### Annual American Philological Association Conference Philadelphia, PA

Founded in 1869 by “professors, friends, and patrons of linguistic science,” the APA is the principal learned society in North America for the study of ancient Greek and Roman languages, literatures, and civilizations. Every winter, the American Philological Association holds a joint meeting with the Archaeological Institute of America.

- Simone Waller** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) – “Creative Consumption and Production in Second Sophistic Oratory”

### The Center for Renaissance Studies’ Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference Chicago, IL

The Center for Renaissance Studies’ annual graduate student conference, organized and run by advanced doctoral students, has become a premier opportunity for maturing scholars to present papers, participate in discussions, and develop collaborations across the field of medieval, Renaissance, and early modern studies.

**Elizabeth Rodriguez** (4<sup>th</sup> year) – “Saith Aye, Saith I: Imagining Consent in Early Modern English Poetry and Law”

40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America  
Boston, MA

*The Shakespeare Association of America (SAA) is a non-profit, academic organization devoted to the study of William Shakespeare and his plays and poems, the cultural and theatrical milieu in which he lived and worked, and the various roles he has played in both Anglo-American and world culture ever since. The Association holds annual meetings in different North American cities so that its members can exchange ideas and discuss strategies for reading, teaching, researching, and writing about Shakespeare's works and their many contexts.*

**Vanessa Corredera** (Ph.D. 2012) – “The Face and Painting in Early Modern Drama”

**MARCH, 2012**

**“Occupied: Taking up Space and Time” Indiana University at Bloomington’s Annual International Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference**  
Bloomington, IN

*Held over three days and featuring the work of graduate students across the United States and world from many disciplines conversing on a common theme, this conference provides a venue for diverse communication to take place in an academically rigorous environment.*

**Tanushree Vaccharajani** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) – “Seamlessness of English Spaces in Dickens’ *Bleak House*”

**International Conference on Narrative**  
Las Vegas, NV

*Sponsored by the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature and hosted by Georgetown University, the International Conference on Narrative is an interdisciplinary forum addressing all dimensions of narrative theory and practice, presenting papers and panels on all aspects of narrative in any genre, period, discipline, language, and medium.*

**Maha Jafri** (6<sup>th</sup> year) – “Why Always Silas? Community and the Indecisiveness of Endings in *Silas Marner*”

**5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Gothic Literature**  
Mexico City, Mexico

*The aim of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Gothic Literature was to keep encouraging the interest in the Gothic among both students and scholars at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and other Mexican institutions, starting from the study of the plural presence of the Gothic in various modes of art, as well as the contexts of time and space.*

**Wanalee Romero** (7<sup>th</sup> year) – “Mexican (and) American Gothic: Xtabay and the Darkside of U.S. Mexico Relations in Josefina Niggli’s *Step Down, Elder Brother* (1947)”

**The Newberry Seminar in Borderlands and Latino Studies**  
Chicago, IL

*This seminar provides a forum for works in progress that explore topics in Borderlands and Latino studies. Papers examine the interplay of Latino people, communities, and culture in the United States; transnational and comparative “borderlands” studies; civil rights and social movements; and other related topics.*

**Wanalee Romero** (7<sup>th</sup> year) – “Haunted Borderlands: Space, Bewitching, and the Transnational in Jovita González’s *Dew on the Thorn*”

**Annual meeting of the Nineteenth Century Studies Association**  
Asheville, NC

*The NCSA is an interdisciplinary association for the study of nineteenth century cultures — British, American, and continental. Its membership includes scholars whose disciplinary focus ranges from art, architecture, and literature to religious, scientific, and legal writing, to social,*

*political, and economic debate.*

**Winter Werner** (6<sup>th</sup> year) – “Missionary Cosmopolitanism and Southey’s *South Seas*”

**“Exploring I-Lands: Borders, Identity and Myth,” the University of Virginia Department of English Graduate Conference**  
Charlottesville, VA

*Borders abide and abound—between disciplines, between languages, between periods, between persons, between genders, between communities, between generations, between the self and the world. They define us in both liberating and limiting ways. This conference will investigate how borders and barriers are made, broken and refashioned, giving special attention to individual and national identities and the mythologies that inform them.*

**Becky Fall** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) – “Pamphilia Unbound: Rethinking the Text and Re-visioning the Edition through Mary Wroth’s Folger Manuscript, V.a.104”  
**Alanna Hickey** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) – “A Nation that ‘cannot be compassed’: Mapping Exile in Longfellow’s *Evangeline*”

**APRIL, 2012**

**“Renaissance Borders” Annual Princeton Renaissance Studies Graduate Conference**  
Princeton, NJ

*From the beginning, conceptualizations of the Renaissance have been concerned with borders: between the classical past and the modern present; between pagan and Christian; between the civilized and the barbarous. Even as the idea of the Renaissance has endured various critiques over the past half century, this attention to borders has only intensified. This conference aims to address the issue of borders in the Renaissance, broadly conceived and in an interdisciplinary context.*

**Meghan Daly** (4<sup>th</sup> year) – “‘Writ in the Glassy Margins’: Printed Marginalia and the Hermeneutics of Reading in Shakespeare’s *Lucrece*”  
**Becky Fall** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) – “Pamphilia Unbound: Rethinking the Text and Re-visioning the Edition through Mary Wroth’s Folger Manuscript, V.a.104”

**MAY, 2012**

**47<sup>th</sup> Annual International Medieval Congress**  
Kalamazoo, MI

*The International Medieval Congress is an annual gathering of more than 3,000 scholars interested in Medieval Studies. It features more than 550 sessions of papers, panel discussions, roundtables, workshops, and performances.*

**Becky Fall** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) – “Queer Corpora: Violent Disorder and the Dis-articulated Body in Chaucer’s *Knight’s Tale*”

**JUNE, 2012**

**International Whitman Week Seminar and Symposium**  
Pobierowo, Poland

*The Transnational Walt Whitman Association sponsors a yearly seminar and symposium, during which students from different countries come together to work with an international team of Whitman specialists, and to participate in the presentation of scholarly papers by Whitman scholars and graduate students from various countries.*

**Eric Hengstebeck** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) – “‘The strangest-born among all the intellectual freaks of nature’: Receiving Whitman’s Monstrous Multitudes”

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 our most sincere thanks, our valued donors from this past year

Drs. William and Louise Cleveland	Mr. Thomas Neuburger and
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# Musings

2012-13

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*Contributions Courtesy of  
the Faculty, Graduate  
Students, & Alumni of  
the Northwestern University  
English Department*



*Designed & Edited by  
Nathan Mead*