



Musings

Fall 2016

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

English Graduate Newsletter

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F·R·O·M T·H·E C·H·A·I·R

The new academic year finds the English Department, as always, flying out of the starting gates of Fall Quarter. In addition to the reliable intellectual feast of course offerings this year, we continue to host visitors presenting their work to us on a range of subjects from medieval to the post-modern / post-human. Indeed, with that pair of “posts,” we might begin to consider what comes next in the rapidly emerging history of English Studies.

English departments have long served as incubators and safe harbors for interdisciplinary work, work that even goes on, sometimes, to evolve into new disciplines and academic units. The sheer diversity of *kinds* of inquiry that English has hosted is a point of great pride for our department, and we continue to cheer on the powerful creativity of our faculty and graduate students, as we all press upon the boundaries of what and how it has been possible to think, and to write – *so far*.

Within the Department, as well, we work to forge new kinds of intellectual connections: we are putting the final polish on a proposal for an MFA / MA degree that will bring our two departmental enterprises in creative writing and literary criticism ever closer together. In that context, I’m extremely delighted to announce that the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and nineteenth Poet Laureate of the United States, Natasha Trethewey, will be joining our community of brilliant teachers, scholars, and artists next year. Professor Trethewey’s fine-grained engagement with questions of race and memory will bring us not only literary distinction, but also a profound, observant eye on our times, its predicaments, and the lingering histories that bring us here.

As we collectively face unpredictable horizons ahead for American social, institutional, and political forms (especially colleges and universities), University Hall stands as a place where we give safe quarter to learning, support curiosity, and protect a space in which to pose powerful questions – and to commit true feats of imagination.

Laurie Shannon
Department Chair

N·E·W F·A·C·U·L·T·Y

It was just recently confirmed that **Natasha Trethewey**, one of the poetry world’s most acclaimed stars, will be joining our department’s faculty at the start of the 2017-18 academic year.

The Mississippi native holds a prominent spot among the nation’s foremost contemporary poets, having captured the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for “Native Guard,” one of her four published poetry collections, before serving two terms as the 19th Poet Laureate of the United States, from 2012 to 2014.

As Poet Laureate, Trethewey’s name ranks among some of the nation’s most revered poets, including Mark Strand, Rita Dove, Billy Collins and W.S. Merwin. Her work has appeared in several volumes of “Best American Poetry” and in leading journals such as the *American Poetry Review* and *Ploughshares*.

Trethewey, who earned a B.A. in English from the University of Georgia, an M.A. in English and creative writing from Hollins University and an M.F.A. in poetry from the University of Massachusetts, has earned fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Academy of American Poets and the National Endowment for the Arts. She is also a member of the esteemed American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



A W·O·R·D F·R·O·M EGSO

The 2015-2016 academic year was full of exciting events and worthy accomplishments. The English Graduate Student Organization kicked off the academic season with our annual Fall Collation during which interim Department Chair Susan Manning welcomed us all back to University Hall, announced exciting new departmental programming, and introduced this year's Collation speakers, Professor Betsy Erkkilä and doctoral candidate Toby Altman. Toby began the evening by positing new interpretive lines between John Donne and Thomas Gunn. Professor Erkkilä followed with a provocative and often quite frolicsome exploration of Abigail Adams' affairs. Both speakers delivered engaging and vibrant talks that gave rise to many buoyant chats during the reception that followed.

As is our long-standing tradition, EGSO began the year by organizing festivities aimed to reunite continuing students after a long summer and to welcome our newest graduate cohort into the fold. We paired new students with peer mentors, coordinated our annual first-year breakfast, and threw a festive welcome back barbecue. Fostering friendly and intellectual camaraderie was also the goal of EGSO's quarterly colloquia. Students-in-coursework representative Noah Chaskin organized thoughtful pairings of graduate student work that included presentations by Simone Waller, Stephanie Pentz, Kellen Bolt, Corinne Collins, Susanna Sacks, and Matthew Beeber.

Students-in-candidacy representative Stephanie Pentz organized a series of workshops aimed to connect graduate students with professionalization resources and opportunities. The year began with a workshop on preparing for scholarly publication that was moderated by Professor Jules Law and which discussed works-in-progress by students Toby Altman and Casey Caldwell. Stephanie also coordinated a forum on alt-ac opportunities in which she convened a group of graduate students who have had success in seeking out alternative and enterprising ways to pair their scholarship with non-academic careers. Stephanie closed out the year with a panel on preparing successful teaching portfolios and which consisted Ph.D. candidate Annalese Duprey and Hosanna Krienke, who just earned her doctorate this past Summer, along with Searle Center representative Dr. Nancy Ruggeri.

Our proudest success last year, however, pertained to our efforts toward building camaraderie between students and professors. EGSO teamed up with interim Chair Susan Manning and DGS Helen Thompson to organize what we hope will become a new department tradition: a brown bag lunch discussion lovingly dubbed the "Salon Series." With an eye toward deepening departmental fellowship and fostering intellectual cross-pollination, we conceived of Salon as an opportunity for faculty and graduate students to meet in an informal, low-stakes setting to discuss a short, pre-circulated reading. We held our inaugural Salon event in January and hosted three in total, with topics ranging over racial geographies, gendered hermeneutics in the medieval period, and theories on globalizing ecocriticism. We are very excited to report that Salon has been met with great support and enthusiasm from faculty and students alike and we will continue this quarterly tradition.

Finally, the year's programs and events would have been impossible without generous donations of time and expertise by these faculty and students. Equally integral to our efforts were the day-to-day collaborations and ever-supportive contributions by Jennifer Britton, Kathy Daniels, and Dave Kuzel. And, of course, we would all melt into helpless pools of slouchy sadness if not for the indefatigable Nathan Mead, who answered every query and solved every crisis. We are incredibly grateful and immensely humbled to work with such outstanding mentors and colleagues.

Anne Boemler and **Stephanie Pentz**, Co-Chairs
Ilana Larkin, Representative. for Students in Coursework
Erin Andrews, Representative. for Students in Candidacy
Sam Botz, Archivist

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

Fullamusu Bangura is a recent Rutgers University graduate, born and raised in the District of Columbia. During her undergraduate tenure, Fullamusu double majored in English and Political Science with a certificate in Women's Leadership. In May 2015, she completed her senior thesis on the topic of feminine water spirits of the African Diaspora, receiving high honors on the project. Her research interests include queerness and healing practices in literature of the African Diaspora, and she looks forward to delving deeper into the topics as a graduate student. Currently, Fullamusu serves as a City Year AmeriCorps member, working in an English/Language Arts classroom with 6-8th graders in North Lawndale. She is passionate about blogging and can be found writing essays about Black mermaids and Beyoncé Knowles at fullamusings.wordpress.com.

Halle Edwards graduated from Stanford University in 2014 with a B.A. in English. For her senior honors thesis, Halle wrote about *The Faerie Queene*, specifically investigating how the historical events of the late sixteenth-century may have influenced some of Spenser's charged, violent depictions of women in the poem. During her doctoral studies, Halle intends to continue exploring the complexity of Spenser's depictions of gender and violence, as well as moving outward to examine these issues in the works of Shakespeare, Milton, and others in the early modern period. Since 2014, Halle has been working as a writer and teacher. She currently lives and works near Matsuyama, Japan, teaching English courses at the Ehime University School of Medicine.

Johana Godfrey grew up in Ann Arbor, MI, and attended Barnard College in New York City, graduating in 2013 with her B.A. in English. Her senior theses were an exploration of performative text in *The*

Shewings of Julian of Norwich, and an analysis of myth-building techniques in Eudora Welty's "Golden Apples" story cycle. She received her B.A. in English in 2013. Since graduating, she's been nannying a nine year old in Manhattan. Her graduate work will be in Victorian literature, and her current interests include the ways in which formal aspects of emergent genres responded to the pervasive uncertainties of imperial and urban expansion. She plans to ground her work in an interdisciplinary approach, considering material culture and social and intellectual history.

Haijing Jiang would normally prefer to be called 'Nancy,' unless by her parents, and received her undergraduate degree in English from the University of Oxford. She is currently completing her course of study there, working towards an English MSt. in the medieval strand (650-1550) and focusing most of her studies on vernacular devotional literature, although likes to dabble with Chaucer, the mystery plays and editing previously unedited medieval prayerbooks. For her MSt. dissertation, she will be looking at the multiplicity of voices within *The Talkyng of the Love of God*, an understudied fourteenth-century vernacular prayer (as most of her texts are nowadays, apart from Chaucer's works—but the huge critical apparatus around him slightly terrifies her). In her spare time she can be found

serving in her local church, doing youth work, and attempting to bake but usually not succeeding.

Harris Mercer graduated from Columbia University in 2015 with a double major in English and American Studies; his senior theses examined vagrancy in *King Lear* and the political philosophy of Tony Kushner. He studies the literature of early modern England, and specifically how writing functioned in the period as an engine of dissent, or at least as a socially disruptive practice and site for the dialogic voicing of social debate; his interests include queer and gender studies, economic history, political philosophy, performance studies, and ecology. He is a lifelong New Yorker, theatergoer, political junkie, and activist.

Katherine Szadziewicz Scharfenberg received her bachelor's degree in comparative literature from the University of Chicago and her master's degree in North American studies from the John F. Kennedy Institute at the Free University of Berlin. Her M.A. thesis examined the relationship between the discourses of modern architecture and modernist poetry in *fin de siècle* Chicago. Prior to beginning her M.A. studies in Germany, Katherine served as the promotion director for the largest independent trade book publisher in the American South and she has worked in the fields of public relations, marketing, and sales for a variety of industries. In 2013 she started a small consulting company to advise authors and start-up publishers in niche markets. Up until her return to Chicago, she worked as an editor and research assistant in architectural theory at the Berlin University of the Arts. Her academic interests include modernism, aesthetics, Ezra Pound, music and literature, and narratives of decline. A clarinetist and former radio DJ, Katherine enjoys playing tennis and traveling with her husband.



G·R·A·D·U·A·T·I·O·N

Elizabeth Badovinac, M.A.

Thesis: Reformed Goddess: Morgan le Fay's Moral Function in Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Ari Bookman, Ph.D.

Dissertation: Commodity Fictions: Consumption and the World of Kenyan Fiction, 1963-2012

Rebecca Fall, Ph.D.

Dissertation: Common Nonsense: The Social Uses of Not Making Sense in Late Renaissance England

Katie Hartsock, Ph.D.

Dissertation: The Past Like Never Before: Classical Women in Revisionary Poetry from Euripides and Ovid to H.D., Rita Dove, and Carol Ann Duffy

Tasha Hawthorne, Ph.D.

Dissertation: Foxes, Players, and Vixens: Reading Black Pulp Fiction

Alanna Hickey, Ph.D.

Dissertation: The Forms of National Belonging: The Politics of Nineteenth-Century Native American Poetry

David Kaye, M.A.

Thesis: Everything That Rises May Converge: Flannery O'Connor's Religious Reimagination of New Critical Unity in *The Enduring Chill*

Hosanna Krienke, Ph.D.

Dissertation: The Afterlife of Illness: Narratives and Practices of Convalescence in Victorian Britain

Jason Lusthaus, Ph.D.

Dissertation: Victorian Reincarnations: Jesus, Religion, and Doubt in Nineteenth-Century Literature

Raashi Rastogi, Ph.D.

Dissertation: Compiled Subjects: Commonplace Books, Memory Technologies, and Renaissance Subjectivity

Ekta Shah, M.A.

Thesis: Remnants of Caste in Casting: Cast Aside Untouchables in India and Hollywood

Shannon Speshock, M.A.

Thesis: Making the Absence Present: the Troping of Loss and Recovery in the Poetry of Organ Transfer

J·O·B P·L·A·C·E·M·E·N·T

Katy Hartsock (Ph.D. 2015) began a tenure-track Assistant Professorship in the Fall at Oakland University in Rochester, MI.

Maha Jafri (Ph.D. 2015) has also taken up a tenure-track post as an Assistant Professor of English, at Sewanee: The University of the South in Sewanee, TN.

David Kaye (M.A. 2016) is now an Upper School English Teacher at Phoenix Country Day School in Paradise Valley, AZ.

Ekta Shah (M.A. 2016) just started her position as a 10th-grade English teacher at Quarry Lane private school in Fremont, CA.

Shannon Speshock (M.A. 2016) is working as the National Marketing & Communications Coordinator for Stand for Children.

This year, **Rebecca Fall**, **Alanna Hickey**, **Hosanna Krienke** (Ph.D.s 2016), and **Whitney Taylor** (Ph.D. 2015) are Visiting Assistant Professors here in the English Department.

THE EXCELLENCE IN MENTORING INITIATIVE

“Communities of practice” within educational institutions are increasingly conscious of the importance of mentoring. Mentoring relationships are bi-directional and there are basic steps that students and faculty can take to enhance their effectiveness and satisfaction. What you’ll find here is a summary that shares best practices and the approach encouraged by Northwestern’s Excellence in Mentoring Initiative.

Tracy C. Davis
Barber Professor of Performing Arts
Professor of Theatre, English, and Performance Studies
Director, Excellence in Mentoring Initiative

What do mentors expect of mentees?

Northwestern faculty look for the following characteristics in all their mentees:



Good relationships with mentors are those that develop into partnerships: both students and mentors benefit from mentees’ successes, and there is mutual responsibility for bringing this about. Communication is the key: when it is relevant, a mentee should share what is going on in their life, including when the work is frustrating or they feel stalled. This enables mentor and mentee to work out a plan to tap into the mentee’s passion and get back on track.

Using meetings well:

Time is finite, and there are strategies mentees can use to make meetings productive.

- Most mentors are happy for mentees to drive the agenda: they’re advised to go into each meeting with a checklist.
- Mentees invariably take notes during meetings, and should send the mentor a follow-up email summarizing major topics, decisions, and deadlines.
- Travel can interrupt a regular pattern of meetings: Skype or FaceTime appointments in the interim can help keep things on track.

Three Types of Mentoring

Mentoring breaks out into three basic functions:

KNOWLEDGE

Instrumental: ethics and professional standards, oversee development of research, rigorous feedback on research, collaboration toward professional goals such as presentations and publishing

ADVANCEMENT

Career/sponsorship: exposure to research culture of department then profession, visibility opportunities, determine career focus, launch into professional realms

SUPPORT

Psychosocial: role modeling, positive regard and affirmation, reinforce growing autonomy, manage work/life balance

Team Mentoring

There is broad consensus that mentees flourish best with team mentoring. Mentees—whether honors students or doctoral dissertators—may have a primary research mentor but receive the three types of mentoring from a variety of people. Alumni, peers, and wider professional networks can all contribute to mentoring teams. This may be a function of the advisor’s availability or personality matches and the mentee’s sense of “fit.” Whatever the combination of individuals, mentees should seek out all three *types of mentoring*.

G·R·A·D·U·A·T·E F·E·L·L·O·W·S·H·I·P·S & A·W·A·R·D·S

Casey Caldwell (4th year) and **Chad Infante** (5th year) are members of the first cohort of Franke Graduate Fellows. The fellowship program, established by the Kaplan Humanities Institute, brings together undergraduate seniors, advanced graduate students from across the humanities, Northwestern faculty, and visiting scholars.

Caldwell also received a travel grant from the Sexualities Project at Northwestern, which provided funding towards his participation in the 2016 MLA conference in Austin, TX.

Noah Chaskin (4th year) was awarded the English department's 2015-16 Award for Excellence as a Teaching Assistant.

Bonnie Etherington's (3rd year) received a Dissertation Research Award from the Northwestern University Buffett Institute, which helped fund her summer research work.

Meaghan Fritz and **Seth Swanner** (6th years) were selected as co-recipients of the English Department's 2015-16 Teaching Excellence Award.

The historic Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts awarded **Ean High** (5th year) with a Phillip's Library Research Fellowship. He also received a Margaret Gest Fellowship from Haverford College.

Maha Jafri (Ph.D. 2015) is the recipient of the 2015-16 Jean H. Hagstrum Prize for Best Dissertation for "Between Us: Gossip, Sociability, and the Victorian Novel."

David Kaye (M.A. 2016) received the English department's 2015-16 Award for Outstanding Critical Essay for his paper "Homo Amans: Natural Loving-Kindness as Thomas Hardy's *True Religion*."

Andrew Keener (5th year) garnered a variety of awards in support of his work this year. A travel grant from the French Interdisciplinary Group's Research Program, and the Literary Encyclopedia Research Travel Award; a scholarship from the Folger Institute for their Introduction to English Paleography course, and the Rare Book School's William T. Buice III Scholarship; as well as the Bibliographical Society of America's short-term Fellowship, a Harry Ransom Center Dissertation Fellowship, the Houghton Library's Katharine F. Pantzer Jr. Fellowship in Descriptive Bibliography, the Huntington Library's Francis Bacon Foundation Fellowship, the Newberry Library's Lawrence Lipking Fellowship, and the Friends of Princeton Library Research Grant.

Todd Nordgren (5th year) has received the 2016-17 Harry Ransom Center Graduate Dissertation Research Fellowship in the Humanities, and the Buffet Institute for Global Studies' Graduate Student Dissertation Research Travel Award.

Sarah Roth (6th year) was selected as a recipient of both the 2016 Woodrow Wilson Foundation Women's Studies Dissertation Fellowship and the ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2016-17.

Susanna Sacks (4th year) has been conducting research in Africa for the last several months, with support from a variety of sources; a Graduate Student Dissertation Research Travel Award from the Buffet Institute for Global Studies; from the Graduate School, a Summer Language Grant and a Graduate Research Grant; and the Program of African Studies' Hans E. Panofsky Pre-Dissertation Research Award and Summer Foreign Language & Area Studies fellowship.

Ekta Shah (M.A. 2016) received the English department's 2015-16 Award for Best Research Paper on Literature for her essay "The American Enlightenment's Voice of Reason: Hearing Echoed in *The Federalist Papers*."

Harrington Weihl (2nd year) received a Jim & Nancy Hinkle Travel Grant to support his participation in the 17th biennial International Hemingway Society conference this past July.

F·A·C·U·L·T·Y N·E·W·S

Brian Bouldrey spent 3 weeks over the summer at Wyoming's Brush Creek Arts Foundation on an arts fellowship. His new book, *Inspired Journeys: Travel Writers in Search of the Muse* was published in November by the University of Wisconsin Press. He delivered the keynote address to the national conference for the American Pilgrims on the Camino in Saint Louis in 2016.

John Alba Cutler published articles in two recent collections: *The Latino Nineteenth Century* (NYU Press), edited by Rodrigo Lazo and Jesse Alemán; and *Bridges, Borders, Breaks: History, Narrative, and Nation in Twenty-First-Century Chicana/o Literary Criticism* (University of Pittsburgh Press), edited by William Orchard and Yolanda Padilla. He also has an article on borderland literature that will appear in the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to Transnational American Literature*, and will participate in a panel of authors involved with that volume at the upcoming MLA convention in Philadelphia. Professor Cutler gave presentations at conferences in Toronto, Austin, and Boston last year, and was invited to present on his current work at UCLA last fall.

This year, Professor Cutler is a fellow at the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, where he is working on his current book, tentatively titled "Invisible Hands: Competition and Class Consciousness in Latino Print Culture, 1898-1945." He continues to serve on the Latina/o Literature and Culture executive committee of the MLA, as well as the Editorial Board of the Recovering the US-Hispanic Literary Heritage Project at the University of Houston. He also co-organizes the Newberry Library Seminar in Borderlands and Latino Studies, which provides a venue for scholars from all over the country to workshop current projects.

This year, **Nick Davis** has been invited to present portions of his current research on narratives of sexual consent in recent global cinema at the University of Illinois at Chicago and at the Deleuze Studies conference in Toronto. His new essay on William Friedkin's *The Boys in the Band* has appeared in an anthology from Wayne State University Press and, while maintaining a steady pace of scholarly publication, Nick has also been named one of six Contributing Editors at *Film Comment*, the internationally renowned magazine of the Film Society of Lincoln Center. His essay about the actress Kristen Stewart was the cover story for the magazine's July/August issue.

Stuart Dybek's new book, *The Start of Something: The Selected Stories of Stuart Dybek*, was published in November. He also served as guest editor for *The Best Small Fictions, 2016*, which was published in September.

Betsy Erkkilä received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship at the American Antiquarian Society in 2015 to work on *Imagining the American Revolution: Literature and Politics in Insurrectionary America*. At the AAS, she took a slight detour to work on a short book entitled *The Abigail Adams Affairs* which she hopes to complete by summer 2017. She is also completing *The Whitman Revolution: Why Poetry Matters* for the University of Iowa Press. Her essay "Phillis Wheatley and the Revolutionary Transatlantic" will be published in the "Provocations" section of *Early American Literature* in Spring 2017. She has an essay entitled "Radical Imaginaries: Crossing Over with Whitman and Dickinson" forthcoming in *Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson: A Colloquy* (2017); another essay "Whitman and the Poetics of Democracy" is forthcoming in the *Oxford Handbook of Rhetoric and Philosophy*

(2017); and an entry for "Walt Whitman" was published in the *Encyclopedia of American Political Thought* in 2016.

In 2014, "Before the American Novel" was published as the opening chapter of *The American Novel to 1870*, a volume in *The Oxford History of the Novel in English*. In August 2016, her review essay on *A Political Companion to Walt Whitman* and *A Political Companion to Herman Melville* appeared in *Political Theory*. She presented public lectures on "Melville's Pursuit of the White Whale" at the Evanston Public Library in August 2016 and August 2015; a talk on Whitman and Dickinson at the Emily Dickinson International Society Conference in Paris in June 2016; a paper on "Abigail Adams, War Correspondent" at the Omohundro Institute and Society of Early Americanists Conference in Chicago in 2015; and she was invited to give talks on "The Abigail Adams Affairs" at our department's Fall Colloquy, and at Clark University in 2015. She also received the Faculty Award for Service from The Graduate School at Northwestern University in 2014.

Harris Feinsod spent the past year as a Fellow at the University of Pittsburgh Humanities Center, where he completed a book entitled *The Poetry of the Americas from Good Neighbors to Countercultures* (forthcoming from Oxford UP's Modernist Literature and Culture Series in 2017). His most recent essays on the poet C.D. Wright and the artist Allan Sekula appear in *Iowa Review* and *n+1*, respectively. With John Alba Cutler, he continues to direct *Open Door Archive*, a growing digital repository of 1960s literary journals. Earlier this fall, he lectured on comparative poetics at the invitation of Johns Hopkins University's Department of English; and he has presented new work on Derek Walcott, B. Traven, and the genre of the lyric sea diary, at recent meetings of the American Comparative Literature Association, the Society for Novel Studies, and the Modernist Studies Association.

F·A·C·U·L·T·Y P·U·B·L·I·C·A·T·I·O·N·S

Brian Bouldrey
Inspired Journeys:
Travel Writers in Search
of the Muse, ed.



Stuart Dybek
The Start of Something:
The Selected Stories
of Stuart Dybek



Stuart Dybek
The Best Small Fictions:
2016, ed.



Christine Froula presented “Make It Old New: Modernist Classics in 21st Century Art and Aesthetics” in Boston last November and “Making Fun: Bloomsbury’s Coterie Comedy in Historical Perspective” in Leeds in June. “Ezra Pound and the Comparative Literature of the Present, or, Triptych: Rome/London/Pisa” appeared in *Ezra Pound and the Present* (Bloomsbury 2016) and “Dangerous Thoughts in Bloomsbury: British Aestheticism and Fictions of Empire” in *Reconnecting Aestheticism and Modernism* (Routledge 2016). “The Zeppelin in the Sky of the Mind” is forthcoming in a WWI collection (Oxford/British Academy 2017); a co-edited anthology of Bloomsbury dramatic works is in progress.

Reg Gibbons’ new book of poems, *Last Lake*, was published in October by University of Chicago Press. His new book of very short stories, *Orchard in the Street*, will be published in fall 2017 by BOA Editions, Ltd. He is continuing his work for the American Writers Museum (which opens in Chicago in April 2017), as a member of a committee that is vetting the texts for the high-tech interactive exhibits. And he also continues to volunteer for the Guild Literary Complex, a Chicago literary presenting organization that is approaching its 30th anniversary, and which initiated the founding of Brooksdays, the annual celebration of the work of Gwendolyn Brooks, on June 7. For a month in early 2017, Reg will be at the École normale supérieure de lettres et sciences humaines (ENS-LSH) in Lyon, on Northwestern’s faculty exchange through our French Interdisciplinary Group.

Chris Lane’s new book, *Surge of Piety: Norman Vincent Peale and the Remaking of American Religious Life*, was recently published by Yale University Press in its History trade list. A study of American religious nationalism since the Great Depression, very much driven by unpublished archival papers, the book details how Peale and a handful of conservative allies - including J. Edgar Hoover and President Eisenhower - conspired to fuel a massive rise of religiosity across the nation. A spin-off op-ed, on Donald Trump’s debt to Peale and Roy Cohn, was published in *TIME* magazine in October.

Andrew Leong is on research leave for the academic year 2016-17. He will be completing his book manuscript, *The Origins of Japanese American Literature are Queer and Mixed*, and

conducting research in Los Angeles in the special collections of UCLA and the Japanese American National Museum for his next project on Japanese-language poetry in the Americas.

Larry Lipking’s book, *What Galileo Saw: Imagining the Scientific Revolution* (Cornell UP), is now in paperback. It is being translated into Chinese and will soon be available as an audiobook.

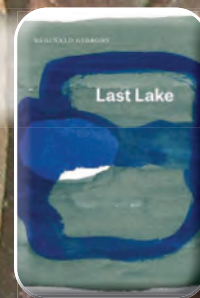
Susan Manning is traveling a lot this fall and winter, giving talks in Berlin, Lodz, and Hamburg toward a new book under contract titled *Critical Histories of Modern Dance: a Retrospective*. She also is at work on a coedited volume titled *Beyond Dance History: Essays from the Mellon Project*. Recent publications have appeared in *Textures*, *Performance Matters*, *Textual Practice*, and the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism* - all in a digital format. Nonetheless, she still prints and files hard copies of almost everything she needs for her teaching and research, including Powerpoints!

Jeffrey Masten published *Queer Philologies: Sex, Language, and Affect in Shakespeare’s Time* in July. More information about the book is available at the University of Pennsylvania Press website, and in a Q&A on “The Curious Case of Q” (see pg. 17). Masten will be giving the Gottschalk lecture this year at Cornell, in addition to talks at Michigan and SUNY Stony Brook.

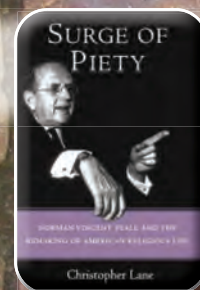
In 2016, **Barbara Newman** published *Making Love in the Twelfth Century: “Letters of Two Lovers” in Context* (Penn, 2016), and this past summer she completed a translation of Mechthild of Hackeborn’s *Book of Special Grace*, now in press with the Paulist Classics of Western Spirituality. According to Murray’s Law, the more widely a book was read in the late Middle Ages, the less likely it is to have a critical edition, and therefore to be read by medievalists today. Mechthild’s best-seller, with its 300 Latin and vernacular manuscripts, fell into that limbo - but now, for your spiritual pleasure, it will soon be available once again.

As president of the Medieval Academy in 2015-16, Barbara gave her presidential address on “Annihilation and Authorship: Three Women Mystics of the 1290s” (published in the July 2016 issue of *Speculum*). This fall she has been team-teaching a Kaplan Humanities course for freshmen with religionist Mira Balberg

Reg Gibbons
Last Lake



Christopher Lane
Surge of Piety



Susan Manning
Mary Wigman e la danza tedesca del primo Novecento
(Italian trans. *Ecstasy and the Demon: Feminism and Nationalism in the Dances of Mary Wigman*)

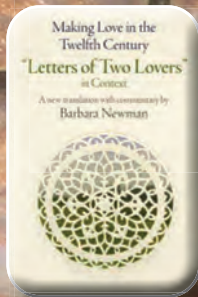


Juan Martinez
Best Worst American



Jeffrey Masten
Queer Philologies





Barbara Newman
Making Love in the Twelfth Century: Letters of Two Lovers' in Context



Bill Savage
George Ade's *Old-Time Saloon: Not Wet - Not Dry, Just History* annotations & introduction



Regina Schwartz
Loving Justice, Living Shakespeare



Helen Thompson
Fictional Matter: Empiricism, Corpuscles, and the Novel

and historian Amy Stanley: a multicultural, interdisciplinary extravaganza called “Till Death Do Us Part (or not): Exploring Marriage.” It includes everything from the Talmud to Jane Austen to *The Tale of Genji*, not to mention recent Supreme Court decisions.

Bill Savage continues his exploration of Chicago culture, writing an introduction and annotation for a new edition of George Ade’s *The Old-Time Saloon: Not Wet, Not Dry - Just History* (2016, University of Chicago Press). He has also been writing about the Chicago Cubs for ESPN.com, and reviewing books for the Chicago Tribune.

Regina Schwartz’s new book, *Loving Justice, Living Shakespeare* just came out with Oxford University Press. She was in Cambridge UK as a Visiting Fellow in the spring of 2016. There, she gave a lecture entitled “The Economics of Contract and Love” in a conference on Change and Exchange, as well as a talk on “Charity” to the Renaissance Seminar in Cambridge.

Laurie Shannon’s book, *The Accommodated Animal: Cosmopolity in Shakespearean Locales*, earned the tenth annual Elizabeth Dietz Memorial Book Prize for the most outstanding contribution to English Renaissance literary studies, a prize administered by *SEL: Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900* and awarded at the 2016 meeting of the MLA. She gave the Peters J. Rushton Lecture in the English Department at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and a talk on Shakespeare and Darwin at the 2016 World Shakespeare Congress in Stratford, England; she will present her current work on defrocked humanity at Northwestern, Columbia, the University of Maryland, and the Shakespeare Association of America in the year ahead.

Wendy Wall has been elected to serve as the incoming President for the Shakespeare Association of America, and was awarded the Charles Deering McCormick Professor for Teaching Excellence last year. She is at work on the Pulter Project, an investigation of the relatively recently discovered poetry of Hester Pulter, a previously unknown 17th century female author.

Rachel Jamison Webster has continued to serve as Director of our Creative Writing Program. In her own work, she focused mainly on writing creative non-fiction this year, and in 2015-16 she had essays run in *Tin House*, *The*

Baltimore Review, *Drunken Boat*, *The Columbia Review* and *Parabola*; she delivered her memoir, “Double Vision,” to her agent at the DiFiorini Agency in New York; and also published a short story in *Booth* and poems in *The Dallas Review*, *Yellow Medicine Review*, *Spoon River Poetry Review* and other outlets. She gave a TEDx talk in Michigan and readings in Iceland, New York, and at area Chicago high schools.

In 2016, **Will West** was kept busy by the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death. He presented papers on Shakespeare and Cervantes in Paris, and on Shakespeare and Munday in London. He also gave the Dan Collins Lecture at UMass-Amherst on roaring and squeaking, not only in Shakespeare, and published articles on contexts in Shakespeare and understudies in *Romeo and Juliet*. With Wendy Wall, he designed and taught “Shakespeare’s Circuits,” a course on the global circulation of Shakespeare’s plays across time and space. At the Northwestern Rock as part of ShakespaRevel, though, he offered a minority report of readers who have not liked Shakespeare, including Voltaire, Tolstoy, Shaw, and Wittgenstein.

Kelly Wisecup’s article on the pseudonymous Cherokee writer Socrates, “Practicing Sovereignty: Colonial Temporalities, Cherokee Justice, and the ‘Socrates’ Writings of John Ridge,” will appear in the Spring 2017 issue of *NAIS: Journal of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association*. She was the recipient of a Research Innovation Grant (a “W Award”) from Northwestern’s Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences to support *Archive Chicago: Mapping Chicago’s Indigenous Stories*, her collaborative research project to create digital maps and archives of Chicago’s Indigenous stories.

In Summer 2016, she co-taught the Newberry Library’s Consortium in American Indian Studies Summer Institute: “Memory, Materiality, and Textuality in Native American Literatures.” This year, she gave the annual Baine Lecture at the University of Mississippi and the annual Graduate English Organization Alumni Lecture at the University of Maryland. At Northwestern, she continues to support the university’s growing initiatives in Native American and Indigenous Studies, by co-chairing the Indigenous Studies Research Initiative steering committee, serving on the Indigenous Peoples Steering Group, and organizing the Native American and Indigenous Studies Lecture Series.

R·E·C·E·N·T G·R·A·D·U·A·T·E W·O·R·K

Erin Andrews (4th year) participated in the “Queer Becomings and Unnatural Intimacies” seminar at the [sic!] Summer Institute Cologne 2016, while **Sara Černe** and **Maria Dikcis** (both in their 3rd year) participated in the “Hip Hop and Urbanism” seminar.

Nora Eltahawy (7th year) and **Tony Papanikolas** (4th year) attended the nineteenth Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth over the summer. Their projects, respectively “Collecting Dissent: The Persian Gulf War and the Rise of the Arab American Literary Anthology” and “Representations of African American Music in U.S. Literature, 1853-1903” were developed during a week-long series of seminars attended by an international group of advanced graduate students and junior faculty.

Over the summer, **Bonnie Etherington** (3rd year) traveled to Singapore and New Zealand for research on transnational ecologies in twentieth and twenty-first century literatures of South East Asia and Oceania. Her travel included time spent in the Library of Botany and Horticulture at the Singapore Botanic Gardens, the Singapore National Museum, the Singapore National Gallery, and the Hocken Collection at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Ean High (5th year) spent most of April on a Phillip’s Library Research Fellowship from the historic Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA, where he read nineteenth-century fan mail sent to the poet John Greenleaf Whittier. In September, he worked out of Haverford College, drawing on their dedicated “Quaker and Special Collections” library to strengthen his dissertation’s engagement with religious voices in early American literature.

Kara Johnson (6th year), in partnership with the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, served over the past year as the Tutoring Coordinator for The Odyssey Project, a program run by the Illinois Humanities Council to free for-credit college classes to Chicago-area adults. Over the summer, Johnson spent three weeks

visiting the University of Massachusetts Center for Lowell History and the Lowell Historical Society conducting research for her dissertation chapter on the 1840-1845 textile literary magazine *The Lowell Offering*.

Late last Spring, **Andrew Keener** (5th year) participated in Heather Wolfe’s “Introduction to English Paleography,” a week-long intensive skills course at the Folger Institute. In April, he curated a one-day exhibit of early printed books at Northwestern’s Deering Library, titled “In the Shadow of Shakespeare: 400 Years.” Sponsored jointly by the Early Modern Colloquium and Northwestern Special Collections, this exhibit accompanied a program of seven faculty speakers, each of whom offered brief presentations on Francis Beaumont, Miguel de Cervantes, Philip Henslowe, and other non-Shakespearean figures celebrating 400-year anniversaries in 2016.

In July, he oversaw the completion of the project known as “Renaissance Books, Midwestern Libraries.” RBML was an effort to report all of Northwestern Special Collections’ eligible pre-1701 printed books to the English Short Title Catalogue, the foremost digital catalog resource for scholars of early English printed books; the project began officially in 2014. Thanks to generous funding from NU Libraries, consultation and assistance from Martin Mueller, Sylvester Johnson, Jeffrey Masten, and two hardworking Weinberg undergraduate research assistants, Katie Poland and Jake Phillips, over 2500 items were added to the catalogue, vastly expanding NU’s representation from its original count of 188.

Later in the summer, he attended Rare Book School at the University of Virginia for David Whitesell’s course, “Introduction to the Principles of Bibliographical Description.” Concurrently, Keener conducted research at Princeton University’s Rare Books & Special Collections, the Houghton Library at Harvard University, and the British Library, examining each library’s collections of early printed dictionaries, grammars, and dramatic works.

Since August 20th, he has been conducting archival research in Europe, beginning at the British Library and Cambridge University Library, and continuing now at the École normale supérieure de Lyon (France) through the end of the Fall quarter.

Over the summer, **Todd Nordgren** (5th year) explored the William Plomer Collection at Durham University in northern England, then traveling across the whole country to peruse Nigel Nicholson’s notes and letters at The Keep at the University of Sussex.

Sarah Roth (6th year) spent time examining nineteenth-century women’s diaries and letters in several manuscript collections in the UK, including the Gloucestershire Archives, the National Library of Wales, the Wigan Council Archives, the Hull History Centre, the Cotesbach Educational Trust, and the British Library, finding narrative patterns in the stories that women told - in public and in private - about the experiences of pregnancy and childbirth. From mothers of fifteen to spinster sisters, there is fascinating evidence that although women struggled to put these events into words, they were faithfully recorded as important and not merely ordinary.

Susanna Sacks (4th year) was in Malawi, Africa from July through October, continuing prior research on Chichewa poetry. She has since moved on to South Africa and Zimbabwe until January, researching performance poetry and political rhetoric.

G·R·A·D·U·A·T·E P·A·P·E·R·S & C·O·N·F·E·R·E·N·C·E·S

English Graduate Student Organization 2015-16 Colloquium Series

FALL, 2015

Simone Waller (6th year) “I shall cause it to be written hereafter in this Dialogue worde for worde: Popular Talk and Public Texts in Christopher St. German’s *Salem* and Bizance *Dialogues*”

Corrine Collins (4th year) “Make up your own bloodline. Make it up and trace it back: Queer Multiracial Genealogies in Jackie Kay’s *Trumpet*”

WINTER, 2016

Stephanie Pentz (5th year) “The Case for Pacifism in The Alliterative Romance of *Alexander and Dindimus*”

Susanna Sacks (4th year) “Performing the Nation: Locating the Performative in Nationalist Print Texts”

SPRING, 2016

Kellen Bolt (5th year) “Unsustainable Citizenship: Swamp Biopolitics in Crèvecoeur’s *Stories About Immigrants*”

Matt Beeber (2nd year) “John Dos Passos and the Hispanic Revolutionary Imaginary”

JANUARY, 2016

Montgomery Lecture Series, Medical Humanities & Bioethics
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
The Montgomery Lecture series addresses diverse topics within bioethics and the medical humanities. Presenters are faculty, affiliates, alumni of the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, and special guests speakers.

Aaron Greenberg “The Project of Life-Prolongation in Francis Bacon’s *History of Life and Death*”

Modern Language Association Conference
Austin, TX

Andrew Keener (5th year) “For the Easier Understanding?: Language Lessons in Thomas Kyd’s *The Spanish Tragedy*”

Casey Caldwell (4th year) “The Funny Thing about Syphilis: The Sexual Economy of a Jest in *Twelfth Night*”

MARCH

American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting
Harvard University - Cambridge, MA
The American Comparative Literature Association, founded in 1960, is the principal learned society in the United States for scholars whose work involves several literatures and cultures as well as the premises of cross-cultural literary study itself.

Aaron Greenberg “Reviving Renaissance Vitalism”

Chad Infante (5th year) “Murder and Colonial Theology; or Blackness and Indianness in Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Storyteller* and Audre Lorde’s *Power*”

Newberry Library Colloquium
Chicago, IL

Raashi Rastogi (Ph.D. 2016) “Re-Membering Montaigne through his Essays: Examining Commonplacings Marginalia in Newberry VAULT Case Y 762 .M766”

44th Annual Shakespeare Association of America Conference
New Orleans, LA

The Shakespeare Association of America is a non-profit professional organization for the advanced academic study of William Shakespeare’s plays and poems, his cultural and theatrical contexts, and the many roles he has played in world culture.

Rebecca Fall (Ph.D. 2016) *Intention* seminar - “The Best Fooling?: Common Nonsense in *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*”

Andrew Keener *Forgotten Archives* seminar - “Language Exchanges: Noel de Berlaumont’s *Colloquia* and Renaissance Drama”

Raashi Rastogi, Plenary Speaker, *NextGenPlen* panel session, “You frame my thoughts and fashion me within: Early Modern Alba Amicorum and Collaborative Memory”

APRIL

46th Annual Renaissance Society of America Conference
Boston, MA

Founded in 1954, the Renaissance Society of America promotes the study of the period 1300-1650. The RSA brings together scholars from many backgrounds in a wide variety of disciplines from North America and around the world.

Raashi Rastogi, Panel Chair - “Pedagogy in the Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Centuries”; “Material Memories: *Ars Memoriae* and the Materiality of Early Modern Memory,” for a panel titled “Memory, Textual, and Performance History: A Comparative and Interdisciplinary Analysis”

Arts and the Health Humanities: Intersections, Inquiry, and Innovation
Cleveland Clinic - Cleveland, OH

This cross-disciplinary and interprofessional event will bring together scholars, educators, clinicians, artists, health advocates, students, patients and caregivers in an exploration of the relationship between the arts and health humanities.

Carli Leone (6th year) “Benjamin Rush: Founding Father of the Medical Humanities”

Sarah Roth (6th year) “The Pregnancy Paradox”

MAY

British Modernities Group Annual Conference

University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign, Urbana-Champaign, IL
The British Modernities Group's conference brings together innovative work in affect theory, literary studies, and related fields to consider how feelings contribute to literature and how fictions feel real. As affect explores the cultivation, proliferation, and broader implications of both fictional and real-world feelings, literary scholarship has begun to consider compelling intersections of the mind and the material world that complicate the space between what feels "real" and what is.

Todd Nordgren (5th year) "A New Life as a Witch: Sylvia Townsend Warner's Queer Speculative Fiction"

Mark Twain Circle of America

American Literature Association - San Francisco, CA
The Mark Twain Circle of America is the principal scholarly organization dedicated to the study of Samuel Clemens, his works, and his times. The membership includes most of the leading Mark Twain scholars in the world, as well as teachers, fans, and enthusiasts from many nations and many walks of life.

Kara Johnson (6th year) "Dragging and Drowning: Textual and Narrative violence in Mark Twain's *Pudd'n Head Wilson* and *Those Extraordinary Twins*"

Montgomery Lecture Series, Medical Humanities & Bioethics

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Chicago, IL

Raashi Rastogi "Cognitive Prosthetics: Medicine and the Mind after the Body"

JUNE

41st Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference

Petionville, Haiti
The Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) is an independent professional organization devoted to the promotion of Caribbean studies from a multidisciplinary, multicultural point of view. It is the primary association for scholars and practitioners working on the Caribbean Region (including Central America and the Caribbean Coast of South America).

Mohwanah Fetus (5th year) will be presenting "Trauma and Haitianism in the Spanish Caribbean Imaginary of *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*"

Emerging Diversities: Health Humanities Teaching seminar

Hiram College - Hiram, OH
Sponsored by Hiram College's Center for Literature and Medicine, this Seminar brings together health humanities educators for three days of interactive sample classes, lightning talks, poster sessions and small-group discussions. Participants will leave with innovative skills and new materials to adapt to their own teaching.

Carli Leone "Teaching Early American Medical Humanities"

JULY

Hemingway Society Conference

Oak Park, IL
The Ernest Hemingway Foundation was established in 1965 by Mary Hemingway,

Ernest's widow, for the purposes of awakening, sustaining an interest in, promoting, fostering, stimulating, supporting, improving and developing literature and all forms of literary composition and expression.

Harrington Weihl (2nd year) "In Our Home: Modernism and Domestic Space in *In Our Time*"

New Chaucer Society 2016 London Congress

Queen Mary University of London - London, UK
The purpose of the New Chaucer Society is to provide a forum for teachers and scholars of Geoffrey Chaucer and his age. To advance such study, the Society organizes biennial international congresses of Chaucerians, publishes the annual Studies in the Age of Chaucer and a semiannual newsletter, and supports such important projects as the Annotated Chaucer Bibliography.

Stephanie Pentz "Ethnographic Encounters and Religious Debate in *Alexander and Dindimus*"

Project Narrative Summer Institute (Narrative Medicine Across Genres and Media)

Ohio State University - Columbus, OH
A two-week workshop that offers faculty and advanced graduate students in any discipline, from institutions worldwide, the opportunity for an intensive study of core concepts and issues in narrative theory. Above all, the conference explore the complex interplay among medicine, narrative, and narrative theory that constitutes the lifeblood of Narrative Medicine.

Carli Leone "Therapeutic Writing: Benjamin Rush's Records, Worries, and Wrongs"

AUGUST

[sic!] Summer Institute

Cologne, France
A collaboration between Northwestern University and the University of Cologne, The international program offers annual graduate-level seminars on topics in cultural history as well as lectures, poster presentations, and academic workshops.

Maria Dikcis (3rd year) A poster presentation on alternative sexual politics and the erotics of wordplay in Harryette Mullen's 2002 poetry collection *Sleeping with the Dictionary*

SEPTEMBER

Teaching & Learning in Early Modern England

University of Cambridge - Cambridge, UK
This conference aims to bring together scholars working on the transmission of knowledge and skills in order to ask new questions about the educational cultures of early modern England.

Andrew Keener "Trading in Tongues: Polyglot Manuals and William Haughton's *Englishmen for My Money*"

G·R·A·D·U·A·T·E C·O·L·L·O·Q·U·I·A

American Cultures Colloquium

The American Cultures Colloquium (ACC) hosts lectures and workshops that draw together an interdisciplinary group of graduate students and faculty. Last year, the ACC's program included talks by Elizabeth Maddock Dillon (Northeastern University), Kate Masur (Northwestern University), Amy Lippert (University of Chicago), Marcial Gonzalez (University of California-Berkeley), Scott Morgensen (Queen's University), and Nathaniel Mackey (Duke University).

The ACC's 2016-2017 speaker series began with Joshua Miller (University of Michigan) and Annie McClanahan (University of California, Irvine). The rest of this year's program includes talks by J. Gerald Kennedy (Louisiana State University), Monique Allewaert (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Karen Sánchez-Eppler (Amherst College), and Phil Harper (NYU).

This year, the ACC has also revived its reading group. We joined with the Poetry and Poetics Colloquium for our first meeting, where we discussed an article from the Summer 2016 issue of *American Literary History*. The ACC reading group will continue to convene once per quarter to discuss a recent article from a flagship Americanist journal.

Early Modern Colloquium

The Early Modern Colloquium (EMC) at Northwestern University is an interdisciplinary group of scholars and graduate students who meet regularly for lectures and workshops on research-in-progress. Last year, the EMC organized a series of successful workshops for PhD candidates, in addition to an exciting array of talks from prominent scholars including Michel Jourde (Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon), Katherine Eggert (University of Colorado at Boulder), and Gina Bloom (University of California at Davis).

The 2016-2017 academic year will witness the EMC's continuing discussion and presentations from graduate students and visiting scholars, as well as a renewed commitment to interdisciplinary work. A pre-circulated paper by recent graduate Becky Fall will be the focus on the fall workshop, and the group will welcome visiting speakers including Jean Howard (Columbia), Adrian Randolph (Northwestern), and Marjorie Rubright (University of Toronto).

Long Nineteenth Century Colloquium

The Long Nineteenth Century Colloquium, co-chaired this year by Ruby Daily (History) and Clay Cogswell (English), supports Northwestern scholars of 19th-century Britain in their creation of a community across disciplinary boundaries, research interests, and career stages, offering engagement with current trends and topics in the field. A big thank-you to last-year's chairs, Sarah Roth, Todd Nordgren, and Alex Lindgren-Gibson, who put on an excellent program of talks: Talia Schaffer (CUNY Graduate Center) on "Romance's Rival: Familiar Marriage in Victorian Fiction," Kate Flint (USC) on "Millais's Autumn Leaves—Art, Feeling, and the Siege of Sebastopol," Deborah Cohen (Northwestern) on "Love and Money in the (So-Called) Informal Empire," and Erika Rappaport (UC-Santa Barbara) on "A Global Thirst: Selling Tea in the Age of Empire."

The Speaker Series has three talks scheduled for the 2016-17 year. Judith Walkowitz (Johns Hopkins University), Helena Michie (Rice University), and Paul Deslandes (University of Vermont) will be speaking in the coming quarters. Our visiting scholars will continue the well-received lunchtime graduate student master-classes on cross-disciplinary topics along with their talks. We will also be continuing last year's successful graduate student in-progress workshops, which provide students with an interdisciplinary audience for their in-progress dissertation projects.

A · L · U · M · N · I N · E · W · S

Carla Arnell (Ph.D. 1999) is beginning a three-year term as department chair at Lake Forest College, where she is an associate professor of English. She has a new article forthcoming in the journal *Renaissance* on “Love Beyond Logic”: On Cannons, Castles, and Therapeutic Buffoonery in Dickens’ *Great Expectations* and Dostoevsky’s *Brothers Karamazov*.” And at the Fall 2016 matriculation ceremony, she was honored with the Bird Award, given annually to “an individual who by actions or words challenges the minds of others in the community, and who serves as a model for those who study and work at the College.”

The Sarahs Blackwood and Mesle (Ph.D.s 2009) have signed a contract with NYU Press to edit *Avidly Reads*, a series of short books about how culture makes us feel. The *Avidly Reads* series grows out of the work published on *Avidly*, a magazine that Blackwood and Mesle founded in 2012 as a venue featuring short form cultural criticism that blends expertise and enthusiasm. In the academic year 2015-16 they gave invited talks at Columbia University and Hendrix College about their experience founding and editing *Avidly* and about writing for large, public audiences.

Chris Buczinsky’s (Ph.D. 1994) “The Performance of the Pastoral” just came out in *Revisiting Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood: Essays on Lessons About Self and Community* (McFarland & Co. Inc Publishers), a collection of academic essays on Mister Rogers.

Bill Buege’s (M.A.) collection of poetry, *Stumble Into a Lighted Room*, was published in mid-October by Burlesque Press. He’s published about 100 poems in various magazines, but this is his first full-length book.

Katy Chiles (Ph.D. 2008) was awarded a Summer Stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities for work on her current book project, “Raced Collaboration in Antebellum America: The Idea of Authorship in Early African American and Native American Literatures.” She will continue her work on this project this year as a Faculty Fellow at the University of Tennessee Humanities Center.

Marcy Dinius (Ph.D. 2003) has spent the year working on her NEH Fellowship-funded book manuscript, “The Textual Effects of

David Walker’s Appeal,” and contributed a chapter to a forthcoming collection edited by Northwestern’s own Tracy Davis and Stefka Mihaylova: “I go to Liberia’: Following *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* to the Destination of Its Black Characters” in *The Transnational Histories of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”* (University of Michigan Press, forthcoming). This year, Dinius will be co-editing a special issue of the journal *Early American Studies* with Sonia Hazard, dedicated to keywords in Early American literary and material texts studies.

In November 2015, **Ray Gleason** (Ph.D. 1997), Lecturer for the Northwestern School of Professional Studies and Limited Term Lecturer in the writing program at Purdue North Central, released his first novel in the “Gaius Marius Chronicle,” *The Gabinian Affair (De Re Gabiniana)* with Morgan James Fiction. The Gaius Marius Chronicle is the fictional memoir of a retired Roman soldier, who served under Caesar and Octavius. The second novel of the series, *The Helvetian Affair (De Re Helvetiana)*, was released in the US in May 2016; the third, *The Swabian Affair (De Re Suebiana)*, will be released in April 2017. These follow Gleason’s first novel, *The Violent Season* (Unlimited Publishing, 2014), a story of the “lost generation” of the Vietnam era, and a creative, non-fiction work, *A Grunt Speaks: A Devil’s Dictionary of Vietnam Infantry Terms*. Gleason is currently working on the fourth installment of the Gaius Marius series, *The Mystery of the Murdered Centurion: The Blood Feud (De Aenigmatate Centurionis Necati vel Vindicare in Sanguine)*.

Carissa Harris (Ph.D. 2012) is the 2016-17 recipient of both a Ford Postdoctoral Fellowship and a Woodrow Wilson Junior Faculty Career Enhancement Fellowship, so she is spending the year finishing her book manuscript, “Obscene Pedagogies: Transgressive Talk and Sexual Education in Late Medieval Britain.” Her essay, “Rape Narratives, Courtly Critique, and the Pedagogy of Sexual Negotiation in the Middle English Pastourelle,” was published in the *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* in May 2016.

Hunt Howell (Ph.D. 2005) has received tenure from Boston University, as well working with Megan Walsh of St. Bonaventure University to publish a Broadview edition of Frank J. Webb’s 1897 *The Garies and Their Friends*.

Heidi Kim (Ph.D. 2010) received tenure from UNC Chapel Hill, and her new book, *Invisible Subjects: Asian America in Postwar Literature* (Oxford UP) was released in April 2016.

Deanna Kreisel’s (Ph.D. 1995) essay, “The Madwoman on the Third Story: Jane Eyre in Space,” was published in the January 2016 volume of the PMLA.

Gregory Laski’s (Ph.D. 2012) Greg’s book, *Untimely Democracy: The Politics of Progress after Slavery*, will be published by Oxford University Press in 2017. Greg was also invited to contribute articles forthcoming in two of Cambridge University Press’s new literary history series: a chapter on Frederick Douglass for *American Literature in Transition*, and a chapter on vengeance and forgiveness after the Civil War in *African American Literature in Transition*. He is co-editing a special J19 forum on “Democracy in the American Nineteenth Century,” which will feature position papers by political theorists, historians, and literary scholars. He is co-founder and -director of The Democratic Dialogue Project, a Mellon grant-funded exchange between Air Force Academy and Colorado College students that seeks to bridge the military-civilian divide.

After returning to grad school for a Master’s in Library Science, **John Edward Martin** (Ph.D. 2006) was recently hired as a Scholarly Communication Librarian at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX. There he serves as a consultant to faculty and students on issues related to scholarly publishing, digital scholarship, open access, data management, and transformations in the world of scholarly communication. He is also a resource liaison for the English department, and a member of the Digital Scholarship Work-group. He recently completed a major grant application for the NEH-Mellon Humanities Open Books Program, and moderated a session at the September Digital Frontiers Conference at Rice University.

Currently, he is researching an article on faculty attitudes towards open access publishing and its role in tenure & promotion reviews. Prior to coming to UNT, he was a participant in both the Association of Research Librarians Diversity Scholars Program and the American Library Association’s Spectrum Scholars Program. Previously, he served as a Visiting Instructor of English at Wake Forest University, and an Assistant Professor of English at Louisiana Tech University. Among his scholarly publications are chapters in *Deciphering Poe: Subtexts, Contexts*,

Subversive Meanings (Lehigh UP, 2013) and *Fear and Learning: Essays on the Pedagogy of Horror* (McFarland Press, 2013). He remains an active member of the Poe Studies Association and an avid collector of “Poeabilia”, horror comics, and zombie fiction.

Laura Passin (Ph.D. 2012) is currently working as an Instructional Designer for Handcrafted Learning, a small business in Portland that provides custom learning solutions for businesses, nonprofits, and government organizations. She has continued publishing her creative work, which has recently appeared in *Rolling Stone*, *The Toast*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, and others.

Ben Pauley (Ph.D. 2004) is still teaching at Eastern Connecticut State University, where he was recently promoted to Full Professor, though this is good news offset by the fact that he’s also just become Associate Chair of his department. This summer, for the third time, he’ll be co-

teaching a course on “Digital Approaches to Bibliography and Book History” at Rare Book School at the University of Virginia. He is continuing in his role as Secretary of the Defoe Society, and as trying to keep an ongoing book project on early eighteenth-century global commerce moving forward while also contributing to the development of various digital projects in book history.

Gayle Rogers’s (Ph.D. 2008) new book, *Incomparable Empires: Modernism and the Translation of Spanish and American Literature*, was published in October 2016 by Columbia University Press. He and Jonathan Arac recently co-organized and hosted the biennial conference of the Society for Novel Studies at the University of Pittsburgh in May 2016. He is an associate editor of *Critical Quarterly* and director of the undergraduate major in literature at Pitt. And he loves running obstacle races (yes, really).

In March 2015, **Josh Smith:** (Ph.D. 2011)

was selected as one of the 2015-17 cohort of the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in Critical Bibliography, a program run by Rare Book School at the University of Virginia. Meanwhile, his popular classes on Middle Welsh literature and language at the University of Arkansas have begun to achieve fame in Wales.

Claire Waters (Ph.D. 1998) is a Professor of English at UC-Davis, and currently Associate Dean for Personnel in the humanities and arts division there. In January, her second book with Penn Press appeared: *Translating Clergie: Status, Education, and Salvation in Thirteenth-Century Vernacular Texts*. It’s about Anglo-French and continental French verse texts that aim to convey Christian doctrine by emphasizing the face-to-face dialogue between teacher and student both in life and at the point of death. She’s also finishing up a facing-page edition and translation of the *Lais* of Marie de France for Broadview Press.

A·L·U·M·N·I P·U·B·L·I·C·A·T·I·O·N·S

Bill Buege
*Stumble Into
Lighted Room*



Leah Flack
*Modernism and Homer:
The Odysseys of H.D.,
James Joyce, Osip
Mandelstam, and
Ezra Pound*



Ray Gleason
The Gabinian Affair



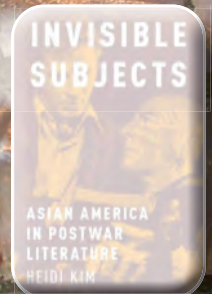
Ray Gleason
The Helvetian Affair



Hunt Howell
*The Garies and
Their Friends, ed.*



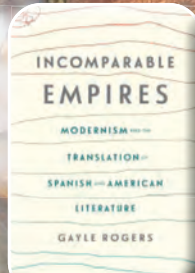
Heidi Kim
Invisible Subjects



Celia Marshik
*At the Mercy of
Their Clothes*



Gayle Rogers
*Incomparable Empires:
Modernism and the
Translation of Spanish
and American Literature*



Claire Waters
Translating “Clergie”



What follows are interviews with Jeffrey Masten and Kelly Wisecup for the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences' website.

The Curious Case of “Q”

Professor Jeffrey Masten's new book explores the dynamic relationship between sexuality and language

By Daniel P. Smith

July 29, 2016 — English professor Jeffrey Masten's journey started years ago with an epiphany at a scholarly conference on the history of sexuality.

It ended this year with the publication of *Queer Philologies: Sex, Language, and Affect in Shakespeare's Time* (University of Pennsylvania Press), Masten's deeply researched, 368-page tome that investigates the intimate, intertwined historical relationship between sexuality and language.

What happened at the conference that ignited your work with *Queer Philologies*?

I realized that we were all beginning our presentations with pocket etymologies of sexual or gender terms without fully exploring why and how this language work mattered for the history of sex. I began to see my research as “revivifying” languages of sex, the body and emotion that we no longer use, or use differently – but also as focusing on what gets “lost in translation” between the sexual past and present.

How would you define the book's thesis?

Queer Philologies has two central claims: first, that we can't do the history of sexuality without analyzing the often very different languages that past cultures used to talk and write about sex; and second, that we need to double back and analyze the normalizing sexual rhetoric the study of language (philology) uses to do its work. What gets erased, for example, in thinking about languages as “families”?

What surprises did you encounter while researching this project?

I was particularly surprised to see a different conception of the alphabet and letters in the European Renaissance. Take the letter Q, which gets a surprising amount of discussion as “aberrant.” It has an unruly “tail” leading either backward or forward that “touches” the “tip” or “bottom” of another letter “from below.” So Q is associated with the rhetoric of sodomy, typically condemned in Renaissance culture. At the same time, Q has a “faithful friend” in the letter U/V, and Q is the only letter that “desires” to connect with one other letter, so there's also positive, homoerotic male-friendship language around Q – and a queer sort of monogamy, for a letter.

How would you characterize your objectives with *Queer Philologies*?

I want to continue to help us think about how we do the history of sexuality — and how a more self-conscious analysis of sex's language illuminates current sexual and gendered terms. Like many of my colleagues in Northwestern's English department, where we have a very deep bench in Renaissance studies, I'm also trying to help readers see more of the strange richness hiding in plain sight in Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe and other early modern writers. What does it mean, for instance, when Shakespeare writes, “Now we speak upon our Q”?

In what ways does your book complement the scholarship on sexuality and gender currently taking place at Weinberg?

There's a lot of great scholarship on gender and sexuality going on in Weinberg, especially through the Gender & Sexuality Studies Program, where I'm affiliated, and SPAN, the Sexualities Project at Northwestern, which largely focuses on contemporary issues through social-science approaches. *Queer Philologies* illustrates that there's also gender and sexuality scholarship at Northwestern about the past and in the humanities, while connecting with that other work at an interdisciplinary crossroads of social history, history of the language, queer theory, English literature and even psychology.



Pocahontas and so much more

Assistant Professor of English Kelly Wisecup advances Northwestern's work in Indigenous Studies

By Daniel P. Smith

Sept. 9, 2016 — Kelly Wisecup brings rich stories of the nation's past to life, challenging what we thought we knew about the likes of Pocahontas, early American medicine, Native American culture and more to share tales rooted in truth rather than convenience.

Fresh off finishing her first academic year as an assistant professor in the Department of English, Wisecup, representative of Northwestern University's increasing push into the field of Indigenous Studies, discusses her longstanding interests in Native American literature and what Indigenous Studies can teach us about our past as well as our present.



What sparked your intrigue in the field of Indigenous Studies?

I grew up in the Midwest and experienced living in places that have been Native lands for thousands of years, visiting places like Fort Osage in Missouri and taking historic tours on the Lewis & Clark Trail. What I found was that only one side of the story — the colonial side — was told, and it seemed odd to have these incomplete histories. In my scholarly work, I became interested in finding the untold parts of some of these stories.

How would you characterize the overarching goal of your research work?

In many respects, I'm trying to transform the idea of the archive. They are not just special collections, but living people. I'm digging into archives and finding things that can change our understanding of literature, but I'm also working with and talking to tribes to create a more complete picture.

How does your research weave into the classroom?

In the classroom, I'm eager to help students discover the full story behind the disconnected, incomplete narratives they have been told. I also want them to read with a critical eye for what's missing. Chicago is one good example of these present but overlooked stories: it's a city where native people have lived and continue to live, but where their presence is largely overlooked.

Let's talk about Pocahontas. What don't we know about her?



In 1616, the year of William Shakespeare's death, Pocahontas traveled to London. To some, this was nothing more than a publicity stunt, but Pocahontas saw a greater, diplomatic purpose to her trip, which included several appearances at the court of King James I and meetings with influential Londoners. During this trip, she also sits for an illustration, the only drawing made of her from life. What's fascinating about the drawing is that it suggests how aware Pocahontas was about how others viewed her and how active she was in trying to shape perceptions of America's Native people. She's careful about how she's clothed to give signs of royalty, which directly counters the conventional view of Native Americans at that time.

Why is Indigenous Studies such an important area to study and teach?

Our understanding of this place — whether we define that as North America, the United States or even Evanston — is incomplete without an understanding of Native American literature, history and culture. Indigenous Studies is important to understanding each of our places in the world today and what this world will look like going forward.

Daniel P. Smith is a freelance writer in Chicago. He writes frequently for Weinberg magazine and other Northwestern publications.

Earlier this year, in kind response to our 2015 newsletter, Prof. Susan Manning (then interim department chair) received a note from Betty Farrar (MA 1958) who shared with us something of the path that she's followed since her graduation. We reprint it here with Betty's permission.

Nathan Mead

2

fascinating Groveland stories were set. Also a member of our church (my husband is a Garrett 1961 graduate!) was the resident caretaker of the Rowfant Club, about which Chesnutt wrote the delightful satire, "Baxter's Procrustes." Chesnutt was the only Clevelander invited to Mark Twain's 70th Birthday Party!

It was Bishop Pipes, who in the 1950's when he completed his Ph.D. at NU, accepted a position teaching English at Western Carolina College - to help the mountain kids. He changed my life. He told me, "Betty, you need to get out of the mountains and see what the rest of the world is like!" Because of him, I went to Northwestern.

1

Dear Susan,

Thank you for your role in presenting to alumni of Northwestern University's Graduate School of English such an extraordinary issue of Musings. (Fall 2015)

In addition to the impressive news of the Department, I loved the page (3) that clearly pointed out the value of an English major, documented in the column "The Liberal Arts in the News."

I was personally excited to see references to publications about Charles Waddell Chesnutt. As a 1957-58 Graduate student at NU, I didn't study the amazing African American writer then, but, during the Civil Rights Movement 1968-72, I taught English at Tougaloo College in Mississippi and was introduced to Chesnutt through his story "The Gophered Grapevine." My study of Chesnutt continued when my husband and I moved to Cleveland OH, where Chesnutt's

My teaching career has included great experiences at a junior college in SC, a high school in the Chicago area, an African American college in MS, an alternative school in PA, a technical school in Cleveland OH, 13 years in Cleveland's Juvenile Detention Center, a community college in FL.

Now - at 80! - I'm tutoring mostly minority young adults in an exciting GED program in Sarasota.

3

Along the way my husband and I have added to our family 3 children, 4 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild!

I'm grateful for Northwestern and its Graduate School of English for training me well!

Betty (Whisnant)
Farrar (MA 1958)

1/19/2016

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.

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