



# Musings

Fall 2018 Newsletter  
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Northwestern

Department of  
English

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## FROM THE CHAIR

Here in University Hall, it seems that each year is busier than the last! As readers of *Musings* will know already, last year we announced the launch of a new degree program that has been long in the works in the English Department: a unique MFA+MA program involving training in both creative writing and English literature. The first round of admissions went forward last winter, and we welcomed our first cohort to campus this fall. This program creates new bridges and synergies between the literary-critical and creative writing wings of our enterprise for faculty and, we hope and trust, new kinds of catalyzing cross-talk for the collective of graduate students pursuing the three degrees we now offer: the MA, the MFA+MA, and the PhD. This year the Department will also begin a longer-term review of the structures of our PhD program, in order to ensure that its design continues to anticipate the emerging needs and scholarly ambitions of our students. As this process unfolds, we will be reaching out for the thoughts and comments of our alumni and current students alike. Reviewing the brief biographies of our new graduate students in the following pages, you will see how powerful and engaged all of these conversations are likely to be!

With all best wishes for 2018-19,

Laurie Shannon  
Franklyn Bliss Snyder Professor of Literature



## A WORD FROM EGSO

As winter emerges on the horizon, we have an opportunity to reflect on the 2017-18 academic year. The Department kicked off the academic season with our annual Fall Collation during which Department Chair Laurie Shannon welcomed us all back to University Hall, announced exciting new departmental programming, and imparted the perennial and ever-necessary reminder to monotask. Doctoral candidate Stephanie Pentz began the evening with a delightfully gruesome foray into Medieval martyrdom in *The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity*. Professor Shaundra Myers followed with a moving discussion of absence and improvisation in Claudia Rankine's poetry.

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 welcome-back barbecue. Fostering friendly and intellectual camaraderie was also the goal of EGSO's quarterly colloquia. Students-in-coursework representative Nina Moon organized thoughtful pairings of graduate student work that included presentations by Delali Kumavie and Susanna Sacks in the fall, Hannah Chaskin and Kellen Bolt in the winter, and Sara Černe and Harrington Wehl in the spring. Nina's successor, Nancy Jiang, organized our latest colloquium this fall, featuring presentations by Will Pierce and Clay Cogswell.

Students-in-candidacy representative Delali Kumavie organized a series of workshops aimed at connecting graduate students with professionalization resources and opportunities. The year began with a workshop on thinking and writing collaboratively that was moderated by Professors Brian Edwards, John Alba Cutler, and Tristram Wolff, as well as doctoral candidate Chad Infante, who spoke to their experience organizing conference panels and editing collections with colleagues. Delali also coordinated a forum on teaching writing in discussion sections in collaboration with Anne Boemler and the Searle Center. Delali closed out the year with a panel on how to optimally structure our work during the summer, with a rich variety of suggestions from PhD candidates Sara Černe and Bonnie Etherington, along with Professors Helen Thompson and Michelle Huang. Sarah Mason picked up this fall where her predecessor left off by organizing an outstanding workshop on note-taking led by Postdoctoral Fellow Sarah Dimick, Visiting Assistant Professor Todd Nordgren, and our own Stephanie Pentz.

This year's programs and events would have been impossible without these faculty and students' generous donations of time and expertise. Equally integral to our efforts were the day-to-day collaborations and ever-supportive contributions by Jennifer Britton, Kathy Daniels, Dave Kuzel, and Nathan Mead, who have valiantly answered every query and quelled every crisis. We are both grateful and humbled to work with such excellent mentors and colleagues.

**Brad Dubos** and **Harrington Wehl**, Co-Chairs  
**Sarah Mason**, Students-in-Candidacy Representative  
**Nancy Jiang**, Students-in-Coursework Representative  
**Philip Ellefson**, Archivist

## NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Kellen Aguilar** (PhD) is from Whittier, CA. He received his BA in English and History in 2016 from Whittier College, where he was also a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow. His Mellon project considered the ways that Ernest Hemingway characterizes an idealized, narratively (author)itative and autonomous white masculinity in *The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*, and was published in the MMUF Undergraduate Journal in 2015. A related project explores how Jennifer Egan's post-9/11 novel *A Visit From the Goon Squad* subverts the version of white masculinity expressed in Hemingway's Africa stories by characterizing its own feminine narrative authority in contradistinction. After graduation, Kellen worked variously in public relations, education, and web and graphic design consulting. His main research interest is the intersection of race and gender in American literature, specifically how different versions of masculinity are expressed through that intersection.

**Spencer Anderson** (MA) is originally from Schaumburg, IL. He received his BA in History and Secondary Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2010. From there he served five years as an officer in the United States Navy from 2011 to 2016. After his time in the service, he attended the University of Maryland at College Park and received a second BA in English Language & Literature in 2017. His writing sample explored the integration of new technological mediums (e.g. film, PowerPoint, text message) in John Dos Santos's *U.S.A. Trilogy* and Jennifer Egan's *A Visit from the Goon Squad*. He is interested in contemporary literature, exploring the future of literature in an increasingly technological world, the impact technological changes will have on literary forms, and the role more "classic" literature will have in future classrooms (especially at the secondary level).

**Jeremiah Barker** (MFA+MA) is a creative nonfiction writer from Columbia, MO. He graduated from Evangel University in 2015 with a BA in English and biblical studies and a minor in French. His writing interests are in auto-fiction, life writing, memoir, art criticism, auto-theory, lyric essays, and cultural criticism. His theoretical interests are in queer theory and ecocriticism. His time away from the desk is often spent hiking, biking, or watching independent films.

**Rishee Batra** (MFA+MA) is a poet who grew up in Dallas, TX and currently lives in Chicago, where he writes poetry and fiction. In his spare time, he plays piano and trains jiu jitsu. His favorite book at the moment is *Voyage of the Sable Venus* by Robin Coste Lewis.

**Elena Bellaart** (PhD) is originally from San Diego, CA. She graduated from UC Berkeley in 2015 with a BA in English and a minor in Art History. Her thesis explored the connections between mood, politics, and depictions of weather in *Moby-Dick*. Her current research interests include 19<sup>th</sup>-century American women's writing and representations of gender, labor, and domesticity in the period.

**Min Li Chan** (MFA+MA) is a writer and technologist, formerly based in Kuala Lumpur, San Francisco, Detroit, and New York City. She is deeply invested in the essay's possibilities for expansive inquiry and productive provocation. She is a 2018 BuzzFeed Emerging Writer Fellow and an alumni of the Tin House Summer Workshop, and her writing can be found at *The Point Magazine* and *BuzzFeed Reader*. Min Li worked at Google for over a decade on technologies for emerging markets, web browsers, cloud computing laptops, and

most recently, at Waymo on self-driving cars. She received her BS in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University in 2006.

**Jennifer Comerford** (PhD) graduated from Rutgers University in May 2017 with a BA in English. Her honors thesis, which focused on Helen Maria Williams' *Letters Written in France*, argues that Williams celebrates the French Revolution's theatricality for proleptically constituting the revolutionary agenda as a tangible moment within which she and her reader can participate as equal political subjects. Jennifer's current research interests include cross-channel exchange, epistolary representations of self, and body politics in 18<sup>th</sup>-century British literature. Before relocating to Chicago, Jennifer spent a year teaching English in several French primary schools near Paris.

**Erica Hughes** (MFA+MA) is a poet from San Jose, CA. She is the first annual winner of the Mireyda Barraza Martinez Poetry Prize for Social Justice and a 2019 Pushcart Prize nominee. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Entropy Magazine*, *Joint Literary Magazine*, *The Antigonish Review*, and others. Hughes has participated in the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation and Tin House workshops.

**Paulina Jones-Torregrosa** (PhD) graduated from Wesleyan University in 2015 with a BA in English and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She wrote her senior honors thesis on the women of color feminist anthology *This Bridge Called My Back*, uniting all of the iterations of *This Bridge* (including its Spanish edition and newly published fourth edition) into a single analysis. While at Wesleyan, she was named a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow. Her paper comparing the work of Roberto Bolaño and Saidiya Hartman, "The Limits of Narration in Fiction and Nonfiction," was published in the 2015 *Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Journal*. After graduation, Paulina worked as a seventh grade English teacher in the Boston area. Her research interests include 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>-century American literature, women of color feminist thought, and ethnic studies.

**Natalie Rose Richardson** (MFA+MA) is a poet who received her BA in English and Comparative Race & Ethnic Studies from the University of Chicago in 2017. Her senior thesis project combined poetry and social science research, exploring notions of "place," violence, and identity-formation for multiracial Americans. Her literary interests include Latin American literature, magical realism, folklore, and contemporary poetry - recently, she's loved reading about death rituals. She has published poems in *Arts & Letters*, *Poetry Magazine*, and *The Adroit Journal*, among others.

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## FACULTY NEWS

**John Alba Cutler** published articles in *English Language Notes* and *Modernism/modernity* related to his ongoing research on Latinx modernism and Spanish-language print culture. In addition, he published an essay on the poet Rosa Alcalá in the anthology *American Poets in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Poetics of Social Engagement*. He gave talks at Yale University, the Latinx Studies Association, and the American Comparative Literature Association. But the real highlight of the year was taking a group of students to Mexico City as part of a course on revolutions, sponsored by the Kaplan Humanities Institute.

**Stuart Dybek** received the Fuller Award for Lifetime Achievement, given to a Chicago author who has made an outstanding contribution to literature, in a ceremony at Poetry Foundation on October 30. Stuart's story, "Pet Milk," was the featured story in August for *The New Yorker* fiction podcast, read by Kate Walbert and discussed with fiction editor Deborah Treisman. For the November podcast, Stuart read and discussed Steven Millhauser's story, "Miracle Polish."

**Harris Feinsod's** article "Death Ships: The Cruel Translations of the Interwar Maritime Novel" recently appeared in *Modernism/modernity*. Other recent publications include an interview on translation with Margaret Randall in the *LA Review of Books*, and reviews in *ALH* and *Syndicate Lit*. Open Letter Books is publishing *Decals: Complete Early Poems of Oliverio Girondo*, a richly illustrated, bilingual edition of one of Argentina's essential poets which Harris translated and edited in collaboration with Rachel Galvin. He has recently given book talks on *The Poetry of the Americas* at the invitation of Rutgers University, the Newberry Library, SUNY Stony Brook, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Chicago, and he presented his new work on the global imaginaries of maritime modernism at UIC, the University of Victoria, ACLA, and on a panel with Julia Stern at C19. In Fall 2018, he was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

**Christine Froula's** recent publications include "The Zeppelin in the Sky of the Mind" appearing in *The First World War: Literature, Culture, Modernity* (Oxford/British Academy), "Thinking Sideways through One's Sisters" (introduction), and "Katherine's Secrets," in *Katherine Mansfield and Virginia Woolf*, ed. Froula, Kimber, and

Martin (Edinburgh UP). She gave a lecture, "Lysistrata's Sisters: Women, Literature, and the Humanities," at Stony Brook University last May, and two papers, "Goldie's War and Peace': Marinetti Meets Aristophanes and Beethoven in Bloomsbury" and "Virginia Woolf's 'The Burning of the Vote'" in Canterbury, UK, in June. She will visit the University of Lyon in April/May 2019.

Earlier in the year, the students in **Jay Grossman's** Winter 2018 Undergraduate Research Seminar on Nineteenth-century American Poetry celebrated the launch of their new website (<https://sites.northwestern.edu/eng397/>), which makes each of their research papers available to anyone with internet access. Each student's project began with the recovery of a book of poetry published in the nineteenth-century United States from the Northwestern Library's open stacks or from Special Collections, and involved making every aspect of it—from the paper to the binding to the cover to the illustrations to the book design to the publisher to the author to the book's circulation and reception, as well as all of the words and poems inside—the object of intensive study. Each research paper thus exhibits what can be learned by attending not simply to the poems themselves, but also to the poetic forms and the book forms in which this poetry originally circulated. Bringing together cultural studies, studies in the history-of-the-book, American studies, literary studies—and in one case, x-ray fluorescence (XRF) testing to determine the properties of paper and ink—these papers, taken together, provide a window for thinking about the varied kinds of cultural work performed by poetry in the United States in the nineteenth-century.

**Chris Lane's** review essay "Analysis Terminable and Postponed," on psychoanalysis and bio-politics, appears in the latest issue of *Cultural Critique*. He wrote a two-part series for *Psychology Today* on the antidepressant withdrawal controversy roiling the UK and US, in particular, marking more than a decade of writing and reporting for the magazine. Recently made a member of Northwestern's Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities at Feinberg, he is completing a book—tentatively entitled "The Biological Citizen"—on bioethics and the practical and political implications of the revolution in biotech. Parts of the book will be given this year as invited lectures in Medical Humanities at Rice University and at Rutgers, as well as at Northwestern, for the Science in Human Culture program.

**Susan Manning** is completing two large-scale editing projects this fall. First is the co-edited volume, *Futures of Dance Studies*, a capstone to the six-year project Dance Studies in/and the Humanities funded by the Mellon Foundation, for which she served as Principal Investigator from 2012 to 2018. The second is a cluster of essays on South African choreographer Nelisiwe Xaba for *TDR: The Drama Review*. She presented her own essay for *TDR*, "Cross-Viewing in Berlin and Chicago: Nelisiwe Xaba's *Fremde Tänze*," for the Black Arts Initiative at Northwestern, at the Dance Studies Association in Malta, and for the English Department's Fall Collation. The essay also will be reprinted in *Critical Histories of Modern Dance: a Retrospective*, a collection of her own essays in preparation. She debuted another essay destined for the collection, "Toward a Transnational History of Modern Dance," at a recent conference on Revisioning Dance Modernism at Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

**Juan Martinez's** 2017 book of stories, *Best Worst American*, has won the inaugural award for debut speculative fiction from Dartmouth's Neukom Institute.

**Jeffrey Masten** gave talks last spring at the Kislak Center at the University of Pennsylvania and on a "Future Philologies" panel at the Shakespeare Association of America with English department alum Jenny C. Mann (Cornell). The SAA paper ("Philology's Queer Children") has now been published at *ARCADE: Literature, Humanities, and the World* ([arcade.stanford.edu](http://arcade.stanford.edu)). Masten will be giving lectures this year at SUNY Buffalo,

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## NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Serena Simpson** (MFA+MA) is a Chicago native, and writes both nonfiction and fiction. She earned a BA in English at Spelman College and an MA in Writing & Publishing at DePaul University. Serena writes character-driven narratives and is very interested in writing about memory, place, and the overlap, interstices, and interplay between them. She is a sister, mother, and daughter, and as her son will tell you, she loves all things too hot, especially the bath.

**Samantha Skipper** (PhD) is from Chicago, and studied English literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research explored the Modernist conception of imagination in Wallace Stevens's poetry and William Faulkner's novels, and she looks forward to studying the construction of entities like the imagination, particularly at points of literary transition.

**Olivia Xu** (PhD) received a BA in English studies & Fine Arts and an M.Phil in literature from the University of Hong Kong. Her Master's thesis examines the ubiquitous presence of fictional portraits in the nineteenth-century English novel and argues against the common "narrative reading" of visual arts in the novel. Her research interests are interdisciplinary, located at the intersection of the nineteenth-century English novel, visual arts and aesthetic theories.

## DEGREES COMPLETED

**Toby Altman (PhD)**

*The Shock of the Old: Periodization, Poetics, and Diachronic Exchange Between the Renaissance and the Avant-Garde*

**Kellen Bolt (PhD)**

*Cultivating Citizens: Ecology and Nationality in U.S. Immigrant Literature*

**Meaghan Fritz (PhD)**

*Uncovering the Widow Figure in Nineteenth-Century American Literature*

**Ean High (PhD)**

*Quakerism, Silence, and the Religious Body in American Literature, 1650-1865*

**Chad Infante (PhD)**

*Cool Fratricide: Murder and Metaphysics in Black and Indigenous U.S. Literature*

**Andrew Keener (PhD)**

*Staging Worlds of Words: Cosmopolitan Vernaculars in English Renaissance Drama*

**Carli Leone (PhD)**

*Mending the Nation: Sympathy, Sight, and Literary Medicine in the Early Republic*

**Todd Nordgren (PhD)**

*Taking Form: Imagining Queer Life in Early Twentieth-Century Literature*

**Annie Osenbaugh (MA)**

*Knowing the Artist Through Art: Experiencing the Other in "Pride and Prejudice"*

## JOB PLACEMENT

**Alanna Hickey** (PhD 2016)

Assistant Professor of English at Yale University

**Chad Infante** (PhD 2018)

Post-Doctoral Fellow and Assistant Professor of African American Literature at the University of Maryland - College Park

**Andrew Keener** (PhD 2018)

Assistant Professor of English at Santa Clara University

## INDIGENOUS ART AND ACTIVISM IN CHANGING CLIMATES: HUMANITIES WITHOUT WALLS AT NORTHWESTERN

In 2017, English Department faculty and graduate students Bonnie Etherington, Sara Černe, and Kelly Wisecup received a three-year, multi-institution grant for their project, “Indigenous Art and Activism in Changing Climates: The Mississippi River Valley, Colonialism, and Environmental Change.” Awarded by the Humanities without Walls (HWW) consortium, the grant is intended to support research collaborations in the humanities focused on a central question: what is the work of the humanities in a changing climate? The Northwestern participants join a team of faculty and graduate students from the Universities of Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, and Mississippi, who will study the Mississippi River Valley as a bellwether of changing climates and examine how Indigenous art and activism harnesses and contests those changing climates. The grant funds meetings at three sites along the river as well as a public symposium, which will conclude the project in 2020.

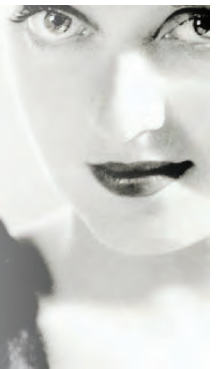
The grant exists at the intersection of research on the river and questions about humanities research. The Mississippi River is home to and a site of origin for many Indigenous nations, even as it factors in U.S. narratives as a political boundary and trade corridor deemed essential to myriad industries. The HWW collaborators will examine how Indigenous expression—from earthworks to pictographic drawings along the river to canoe building projects and poetry—recognizes the Mississippi as a place of origin and belonging while also grappling with the drastic changes that colonialism and climate change wreak on the river. For Etherington (working on protest literature in Oceania) and Černe (working on a cultural and literary study of the Mississippi River), the HWW project extends their research areas and provides an opportunity to produce some of their dissertation research as part of a long-term collaboration.

At the same time that they study the river and the forms of expression it generates, the participants are reflecting on humanities methodologies. Graduate students are undertaking this work by

participating in a practicum, in which they collectively reflect on research meetings and site visits to the river. Both faculty and graduate students are evaluating various methods for creating collaborative research, in part by committing to let the process of meetings and dialogue shape their research (rather than coming to the grant with a pre-existing research topic or proposal) and by examining concepts like the human and walls, both as they exist in academia and in relation to rivers. The group visited the river’s headwaters and met with Dakota educators and activists in Minneapolis in fall 2018; the Northwestern participants are preparing to host the grant’s second meeting in spring 2019.

Kelly Wisecup  
Associate Professor of English  
Co-Director, Center for Native American and Indigenous Research

## ALL ABOUT BETTE: THE CULTURAL LEGACIES OF BETTE DAVIS



On October 5 and 6 of 2018, Professor Julia Stern and Professor Melissa Bradshaw (Loyola University) co-curated the conference “All About Bette: the Cultural Legacies of Bette Davis.”

Davis remains emblematic of the historical era of Classical Hollywood Cinema (1929-1960), the aesthetic practices we describe as modernist, and the political practices we describe as feminist. What would it mean to read Bette Davis as modernist? How does Davis operate as a node that allows us to think about the reach of mass culture in shaping (and historicizing) early twentieth century conceptions of femininity, sexuality, embodiment, and agency?

An actress unafraid to play unlikeable women, Davis regularly wrested directorial and production power away from men, earning her the title of “the Fourth Warner brother” and transforming her from star to auteur. While there is a significant body of work on Davis in film and media scholarship, she has made only a few appearances in literary and cultural studies, primarily in feminist and queer discussions of this period, as in Lauren Berlant’s and Teresa de Lauretis’s readings of *Nom; Voyager*.

Bringing together an international group of media, film, gender, literature, and arts scholars, the conference built on that work, exploring the many ways in which Davis was central to mass and popular culture during Hollywood’s “Golden Age.” The conference featured a keynote address by the world’s foremost Davis scholar, Professor Martin Shingler (University of Sunderland, UK), and a presentation, including never before seen video, by the star’s former personal assistant and memoirist of Davis’s last 7 years, Kathryn Sermak, author of *Miss D and Me: Life with the Invincible Bette Davis*.

Julia Stern  
Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence  
Professor of English



The Bdote (site of Dakota emergence) at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers.  
Photo credit: Sara Černe

## SHAKESPEARE ON THE INSIDE: THE PRISON + NEIGHBORHOOD ART PROJECT

This past spring, I worked with the Prison + Neighborhood Art Project (and with PhD student Casey Caldwell) to offer a course on “Shakespeare: Justice and Politics” at Stateville Correctional Facility near Joliet, Illinois. Most inmates in this grim maximum-security fortress will never exit the 33-foot concrete walls. Although few residents completed high school on the outside, over fifty applied to take Stateville’s first Shakespeare course, inspired, they wrote, by the challenge of tackling the bard without access to a library, dictionary, or the internet. Drawing on the resources that they did have—namely, passion and time—they found that this historically-remote literature did truly speak to them; and they were eager to speak back by avidly debating topics such as jealousy, love, freedom, social inequality, racial conflict, revenge, mercy, ethics, and the law. Intellectual life provided for them, I learned, a sanctioned dissent from a condition of inhumanity. “I see my job,” a student named Cordell wrote, “as maintaining my humanity in a place that makes it really hard to do that.” An ebullient 24-year-old imprisoned (for life) since he was 16, Cordell scribbled this coda to his astute analysis of how social groups defined the “human” in *The Merchant of Venice*. Even while skeptically inquiring “Who gets to say who counts as human?” he acknowledged the humanity-granting power of the prison classroom, a site where “proximity regulations” were relaxed, where people who ordinarily did not mix formed a new community, and where “prisoners” identified by numbers converted into students called by first names.

The class introduced me to the world of U.S. mass incarceration; I learned that educational programs benefit multiple ecosystems, decreasing violence within the prison community and reducing rates of recidivism without the prison walls. But it also transformed the way that I read the literary texts that I know so well. In one class, we read aloud one of the most famous passages in Shakespeare’s canon—Othello’s suicide speech. Having killed his wife out of misplaced jealousy, Othello makes a bid to be remembered as the heroic military figure he had once been, the warrior who once again exterminates a state enemy. “He’s self-rationalizing,” students argued, “failing to take responsibility for his actions.” Then a voice interrupted the chorus: “But don’t people deserve to be remembered for more than the very worst thing they ever did? Don’t we?” The room became very quiet. The power of the ensuing discussion about redemption, cross-identifications, and commemoration has indelibly altered the way that I see this iconic moment.

For their final projects, students “remade” a Shakespearean scene. Joe, a shy, middle-aged Italian American man, chose to fuse popular and high culture in a way that would have made Shakespeare smile. Resituating *Othello* within the world of *The Sopranos*, he fashioned psychological coercion into exquisitely rendered mob slang. Joe rounded out the project by providing a “gangster glossary” for those un-initiated in mob-speak as well as an endnote on the ethical uses of ethnic stereotypes. An elderly African American man named Ray invented a childhood and early life for Othello, in which he traversed pagan, Jewish, Islamic, and Christian communities and identities. Ray’s paper was peppered with historical references to the Ottoman Empire and with the Hebrew and Arabic words he had gleaned from

correspondence courses. Luigi, a white college graduate with a love of the classics, transported the trial scene from *The Merchant of Venice* to the Trump White House, where Jared Kushner, in trouble due to a bond he signed that threatened to enflame tensions in the Middle East, is saved by Ivanka’s reinterpretation of a national treaty. Luigi’s scene ended in a satirical vein, with Trump munching on a cheeseburger, puzzled by the fact that someone named Mueller kept phoning. The students’ work can be seen at <http://p-nap.org/writing.html>.

Teaching the humanities in such a dehumanizing place was unsettling. The journey to the classroom required passing through seven locked security points and being searched. Snipers in towers were trained to follow my path. Yet when I entered the classroom each week, I found a reassuringly familiar site: students sitting in desks clumped around a room, books in hand, filled with ideas they were eager to discuss. These students embraced the complexity of Shakespeare’s writing as part of their hard-earned chance for *recognition* in its most basic and humane sense. Cordell, for instance, admitted that he read his entire adaptation to his mother over the phone. She had read *Othello* in high school, he told me knowingly, “but she didn’t really get it.” “She’s going to re-read it,” he said proudly, “so that I can explain it better.” A student named Dame wrote in his journal, “there is a spark in me that I never knew existed.”

Because intellectualism and the liberal arts are under attack on many fronts in the U.S. today, I find myself called on frequently to defend education that is not narrowly vocational. At Stateville, learning, by necessity, is not a path toward acquiring marketable skills. It’s ironic that, when I travelled to a place so menacing that it stripped people to being bare creatures, I found a population who—on their pulse—believed in the value of the humanities.

Wendy Wall  
Avalon Professor of the Humanities  
Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence  
Professor of English



Professor John Alba Cutler visiting a class at Stateville Correctional Facility  
Photo credit: Monika Wnuk

## GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

**Toby Altman** (PhD 2017) received the English department's 2017-18 Jean H. Hagstrum Prize for Best Dissertation for his project, *The Shock of the Old: Periodization, Poetics, and Diachronic Exchange Between the Renaissance and the Avant-Garde*.

**Anne Boemler** (6<sup>th</sup> year) is the recipient of the 2018-19 Lipking/Newberry Fellowship.

**Samantha Botz** (5<sup>th</sup> year) was selected as the recipient of the English Department's 2017-18 Teaching Excellence Award.

**Sara Černe** (5<sup>th</sup> year) has joined the third cohort of fellows in the 2018-19 Kaplan Humanities Institute's Franke Fellowship Program.

With the assistance of a Northwestern Graduate Research Grant, **Jayne Collins** (4<sup>th</sup> year) conducted research over the summer into the papers of Susan Howe at UC San Diego's Archive for New Poetry and Yale's Beinecke Library.

**Maria Dikcis** (5<sup>th</sup> year) received a fellowship from the Humanities Without Walls Consortium, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and based at the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities. As part of the fellowship she participated in a three-week pre-doctoral career diversity workshop taking place in Chicago over the summer. The program gives cohorts of thirty pre-doctoral fellows the opportunity to engage in intensive discussions with organizers of public humanities projects, leaders of university presses and learned societies, experts in various domains of the digital humanities, librarians and archivists, and representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

**Bonnie Etherington** (5<sup>th</sup> year) is one of the new 2018-20 Northwestern

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

**Anne Boemler** (6<sup>th</sup> year) spent a month over the summer researching the material contexts of Reformation poetry in the Beinecke Library at Yale University as a Visiting Graduate Student Fellow.

Through 2017-18, **Kellen Bolt** (PhD 2018) and **Susanna Sacks** (6<sup>th</sup> year) co-convoked the Graduate Student Workshop in Digital Humanities Pedagogy, with the goal of supporting graduate students in the development of digital humanities skills and pedagogical practices. The Workshop was hosted by the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, and was advised by our own Jim Hodge (Assistant Professor of English and Humanities), Josh Honn (Digital Humanities Librarian), and Mearah Quinn Brauner (Associate Director of Graduate and Postdoctoral Professional Development).

**Casey Caldwell** (6<sup>th</sup> year) has been giving preshow talks at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater over the past year, and will continue doing so into the new season. He was a guest teacher in Wendy Wall's Shakespeare and Justice course at Stateville Correctional Facility as part of the Prison Neighborhood + Art Project. Casey has also taken up the co-editorship of *The Hare*, an online, peer-

reviewed journal in early modern literature. Beginning with the fall 2018 volume, the journal will focus on untimely reviews in early modern theater - publishing reviews of "old" scholarship, neglected performances, and future-looking pieces by theater artists.

**Delali Kumavie** (5<sup>th</sup> year) is the recipient of a two-year predoctoral fellowship from the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies at the University of Virginia, awarded to scholars whose work focuses on Africa and/or the African Diaspora.

**Ilana Larkin** (5<sup>th</sup> year) was awarded the English department's 2017-18 Award for Excellence as a Teaching Assistant.

Under the auspices of the 2018 Lizz Ketterer Memorial Scholarship, **Harris Mercer** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) conducted archival research at Stratford-upon-Avon and attended the Royal Shakespeare Company's summer school.

**Natalie Richardson** (MFA+MA 1<sup>st</sup> year) is the recipient of the 2018 Leon Forrest Award for fiction.

At the 44<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the African Literature Association, **Susanna Sacks** (6<sup>th</sup> year) won the 2018 Best Graduate Student Essay Presented at the Annual Conference for her essay, "Digital Voices: Negotiating Global Forms and Local Identity in Cape Town Performance Poetry." Susanna was also awarded a Digital Humanities Research Grant by Northwestern's Graduate School that supported her attendance at the Digital Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Victoria in Canada.

**Serena Simpson** (MFA+MA 1<sup>st</sup> year) is the recipient of the 2018 Leon Forrest Award for creative nonfiction.

**Sara Černe & Bonnie Etherington** (both 5<sup>th</sup> year) are participants in the Humanities Without Walls "Changing Climate" grant led by Kelly Wisecup. The project is called "Indigenous Art and Activism in Changing Climates: The Mississippi River Valley, Colonialism, and Environmental Change." Sara and Bonnie both travelled to Minnesota over the summer for a related research trip.

**Jayne Collins** (4<sup>th</sup> year) attended a summer writing workshop called "Tactile Notations" with poet Jen Bervin at Haystack, near Deer Island in Maine. She also participated in the SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Program, involving workshops at Northwestern and trips to The Getty Archive (researching concrete poetry and Coracle Press) and to the archives of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art (consulting Ian Hamilton Finlay's papers).

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## FACULTY NEWS CONTINUED

UCLA, and Yale. His 2016 book *Queer Philologies* (U Penn Press), new in paper, has just been awarded the 2018 Elizabeth Dietz Memorial Prize for the best book in early modern drama.

**Barbara Newman** continues to pursue her fascination with all things medieval. She worked up a new course on “Queering Medieval Romance,” gave a lecture on miraculous mind reading at the National University of Ireland, serves as “medieval correspondent” for the *London Review of Books*, and has succeeded a colleague as convener of the department’s Dante reading group. Last year, the group descended to the depths of hell and crawled down Satan’s body to the center of the earth; this year they’ll ascend Mount Purgatory and, with luck, reach the Earthly Paradise by June. Their plan is to finish the whole *Commedia* by the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dante’s death in 2021.

**Bill Savage** was promoted to the rank of Professor of Instruction at the beginning of the 2018-19 academic year.

**Regina Schwartz** was one of the keynote speakers at a conference on Law and Poetics in Early Modern England and Beyond at Cambridge University in July, where she spoke on “The Letter and the Spirit.” Reviews of her book *Loving Justice, Living Shakespeare* are appearing online in Syndicate.com, with another published in *Renaissance Quarterly*.

This year, **Laurie Shannon** published “Poor Things, Vile Things: Shakespeare’s Comedies of Kind” in *The Oxford Handbook of Shakespearean Comedy*. Her work was featured in “Thēmaster 2018: Animal/Human” at Indiana University, where she gave a talk called “Redeeming Icarus” (and engaged an interdisciplinary roundtable of respondents). She is also developing new material for her next book, given in two conference keynotes this year: “Lost on Earth: Calamities of Exposure and Shakespeare’s Human Comedy,” for a conference on “World-Making in Early Modern Literature” at Columbia University, and “Human Bounds: Shakespeare’s Bear, Launce’s Crab, and *King Lear* (with Sheep),” for The UCSB Early Modern Center Annual Conference in Santa Barbara.

**Vivasvan Soni** is currently finishing a paper on “The Utopias of *Frankenstein*” for the bicentennial conference on the novel at the University of Maryland. He is on an ACLS Fellowship this year while completing his book manuscript, “Aesthetics and the Crisis of Judgment in the Eighteenth Century.”

**Natasha Trethewey** was awarded a Bearing Witness Fellowship from the Agnes Gund Art for Justice Fund. This fellowship supports projects that address the human cost of mass incarceration. Her newest book of poetry, *Monument: Poems New and Selected*, has been named to the 2018 National Book Award’s longlist for poetry.

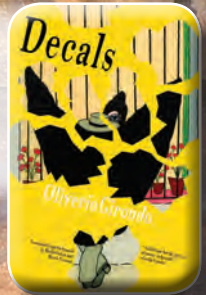
This past year while on research leave, **Wendy Wall** worked with Leah Knight (Brock University) to co-create *The Pulter Project: Poet in the Making*, a free, digital edition of the recently discovered poems of 17<sup>th</sup>-century writer Hester Pulter. Instead of one allegedly definitive edition, *The Pulter Project* presents multiple editions of these fascinating poems, in a framework transparent about the editorial choices at stake and with accompanying Curations that contextualize the poems in an array of visual and textual exhibits. You can see how Pulter’s evocative poems engage with natural philosophy, astronomy, devotional writing, politics, and physics by checking out the site, which launched on November 15, 2018 (<http://pulterproject.northwestern.edu/>). In talks at the Huntington Library, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Illinois-Chicago, Sewanee, and the University of South Carolina, Wendy showcased Pulter’s works. During the year, she also took on some unfamiliar roles, serving as President of the Shakespeare Association of America; teaching Shakespeare at Stateville Prison; judging high school students in the Chicago Shakespeare Slam; and co-teaching a course on Renaissance Drama (with Will West and Jeff Masten) for Northwestern Alumnae.

In May 2018, **Rachel Jamison Webster** won an Alumni Teaching Award from the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. Her book-length poem of feminist spirituality, *Mary is a River*, came out with Kelsay Press in July 2018, and “The Sea Came Up and Drowned,” her book of “mined” poems and visual art collages about earth exploitation and climate change will be released in June 2019. Rachel’s recent essays—published in *Pacific Standard*, *Tin House* and the *LA Review of Books*—have focused on issues of gender and equity. She delivered a talk as part of the Kaplan Security Series about her ancestor, Molly Walsh, who arrived in Maryland as an indentured servant in 1680 and went on to become the grandmother of Benjamin Banneker, the first African American almanac writer and correspondent with Thomas Jefferson. Rachel’s interviews with the Water Protectors of Standing Rock will be published in the summer 2019 issue of *Tiferet*.

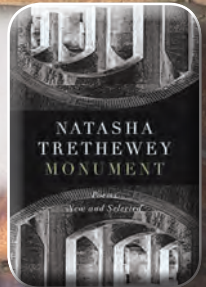
**Kelly Wisecup** was awarded a Common Heritage Grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities for a collaborative project with the American Indian Center of Chicago, to digitize, curate, and make publicly accessible some of the Center’s archives. Her co-edited forum, calling Early American Studies scholars to engage more fully with Native American and Indigenous Studies, appeared in Summer 2018 in the *William and Mary Quarterly* and in *Early American Literature*. She is co-director of Northwestern’s Center for Native American and Indigenous Research.

## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

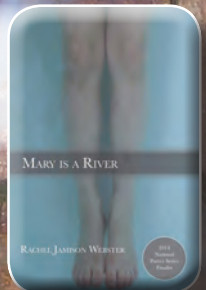
**Harris Feinsod**  
(co-translator)  
*Decals: Complete Early Poems of Oliverio Gironde*  
Open Letter



**Natasha Trethewey**  
*Monument: Poems, New and Selected*  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt



**Rachel Jamison Webster**  
*Mary is a River*  
Kelsay Books



# GRADUATE PAPERS & CONFERENCES

## English Graduate Student Organization 2017-18 Colloquium Series

### FALL 2017

- Delali Kumavie** (5<sup>th</sup> year) “Men Fly, Women are Left Behind and Children Keep the Stories: Translating Black Geographies of Air”
- Susanna Sacks** (6<sup>th</sup> year) “Poetry in Action: Evan Mawarire’s #This Flag, Networked Protest, and the Hashtag as Collective Poetry”

### WINTER 2018

- Hannah Chaskin** (6<sup>th</sup> year) “She discovered nothing of the woman: Female Masculinity and Narrative Voice in Aphra Behn’s *Love Letters Between a Nobleman and his Sister*”
- Kellen Bolt** (PhD 2018) “Aromatic Atmospheres; or, The Smell of America in Eighteenth-Century Immigration Tracts”

### SPRING 2018

- Sara Černe** (5<sup>th</sup> year) “Disrupting the River Pastoral: Eddy L. Harris’s *Mississippi Solo*”
- Harrington Weihl** (4<sup>th</sup> year) “Pound’s Game of Chess: Reinscribing Nationalism in the Avant-Garde Break”

## 2017-18 CONFERENCES

### JULY 2017

[Newberry Consortium on American Indian Studies \(NCAIS\) Summer Research Institute](#)  
Chicago, IL

*The Newberry Consortium in American Indian Studies consortium draws on the Newberry’s world-renowned collections in American Indian and Indigenous studies and the resources of the McNickle Center to offer programs such as institutes, conferences, and annual workshops.*

**Bonnie Etherington** (5<sup>th</sup> year) was a participant in the “The Quest for Sovereignty: Native Nations, U.S. Domestic Dependence, and International Human Rights” panel.

### AUGUST

[Newberry Consortium on American Indian Studies Summer Institute Graduate Student Conference](#)  
Chicago, IL

**Bonnie Etherington** “Stories in String and Song: West Papuan Resurgence in and out of the Archives”

### SEPTEMBER

[Media and Historiography Conference, “Backward Glances: Mediating Resistance”](#)  
Northwestern University

**Maria Dikcis** (5<sup>th</sup> year) “Being, ‘Online’: Provisional Identities and the Poetics of Regressive Digitality in Mónica de la Torre’s Public Domain and Trisha Low’s *The Compleat Purge*”

### OCTOBER

[American Shakespeare Center Blackfriars Conference](#)  
Staunton, VA

**Casey Caldwell** (6<sup>th</sup> year) “‘Ciphers to this great accompt’: The Theater of Accounting in Henry V”

[Sixteenth Century Society Conference](#)  
Milwaukee, WI

*The Sixteenth Century Society promotes scholarship on the early modern era, broadly defined (ca. 1450 – ca. 1660). The SCS includes scholars from all disciplines in early modern studies including history, art history, religion, history of science, musicology, digital humanities, Ottoman studies, and literary and cultural studies in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish.*

**Anne Boemler** (6<sup>th</sup> year) “The Poet as God: George Herbert and the Dangers of Invention”

### NOVEMBER

[59<sup>th</sup> Annual African Studies Association Conference](#)  
Chicago, IL

**Susanna Sacks** “Poetry in Action: Evan Mawarire’s #This Flag, Networked Protest, and the Hashtag as Collective Poetry”

[American Studies Association Annual Conference](#)  
Chicago, IL

**Bonnie Etherington** “The Trans-Pacific in Linda Hogan’s *People of the Whale* and Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony*”

[Religious Ethics and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Surveillance](#)  
University of St Andrews, London - UK

*The Centre for Research into Information, Surveillance and Privacy is a collaborative initiative between the University of Stirling’s Management School, The University of St Andrews and the University of Edinburgh’s School of Social and Political Sciences and School of Law. The Centre’s research focuses on the political, legal, economic and social dimensions of the surveillance society, with a core aim to generate and disseminate new knowledge about “information, surveillance and privacy.”*

**William Pierce** (7<sup>th</sup> year) “Divine Surveillance: The Theology and Secrecy in Reformation England”

*and poems, his cultural and theatrical contexts, and the many roles he has played in world culture.*

## DECEMBER

**Poetics Before Modernity Conference**  
Cambridge University, Cambridge - UK

*Poetics before Modernity aims to encourage and consolidate new work on developments in Western poetics and literary theory from antiquity to 1700. The project provides a variety of outlets—seminar series, conferences, publications—for research in the field, and hopes to foster a community of scholars working on the subject across traditional disciplinary, national, and period boundaries.*

**Anne Boemler** “The Ends of Biblical Epic”

**Casey Caldwell** “A Barren Bread: Corporeal Usury & the Price of Affect in *MERCHANT OF VENICE*”

**Andrew Keener** (PhD 2018) workshopped a paper entitled “Windsor’s Worlds of Words: Continental Vernaculars in Shakespeare’s *Merry Wives*” in the “Continental Shakespeare” seminar.

**American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting**  
UCLA

*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.*

## JANUARY 2018

**Modern Language Association**  
New York, NY

**Kellen Bolt** “A Noxious Nation? The Biopolitics of Smell in Early American Immigrant Literature”

**Sarah Wilson** (7<sup>th</sup> year) “What Profit Fyndest Thow to Mourne So? Sorrow and the Ethics of Reciprocity in Thomas Hoccleve’s *Regiment*”

**Maria Dikcis** “Thinking Beyond Surfaces: Brian Kim Stefans’ *Kluge: A Meditation* and the Avatars of Gretrude Stein”

**Todd Nordgren** (PhD 2018) “‘The Social Life of Forms’: Queer Genres and Genre’s Queer Possibilities”

**American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference**  
Orlando, FL

*Established in 1969, the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies is an interdisciplinary group dedicated to the advancement of scholarship in all aspects of the period . . . from the later 17<sup>th</sup> through the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

## FEBRUARY

**35<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Illinois Medieval Association**  
Chicago, IL

*Since 1983, IMA has promoted medieval studies in Illinois and the Midwest, hosting an annual meeting and publishing proceedings from those meetings in “Essays in Medieval Studies.”*

**Uta Ayala** (7<sup>th</sup> year) “‘li vallés mescine’: Pairing Heldris and Silence in *Le Roman de Silence*”

**Hannah Chaskin** (6<sup>th</sup> year) “‘She discovered nothing of the woman’: Masculinity and Narrative Voice in *Love Letters Between a Nobleman and his Sister*”

**C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists**  
Albuquerque, NM

*C19 is the first academic organization dedicated to nineteenth-century American literary and cultural studies. The society publishes a journal, *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*, published twice annually by the University of Pennsylvania Press.*

**Society for the Study of Southern Literature**  
University of Texas: Austin

*The Society for the Study of Southern Literature is a nonprofit organization founded in 1968 devoted to scholarship on writings and writers of the American South.*

**Sara Černe** “Southern Studies in Composition Classes: Food, Music, Literature”

**Meaghan Fritz** (PhD 2018) “‘The Labor of a Lifetime’: Acts of Consumption in Elizabeth Keckley’s *Behind Scenes*”

**Ean High** (PhD 2018) “Whittier’s Storms”

**Ilana Larkin** (5<sup>th</sup> year) “Learning from the ‘white-chests’: schoolroom discipline and rewriting history in Francis LaFlesche’s *The Middle Five*”

**Adam Syvertsen** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) “‘His aim is to tally Nature’: Burroughs, Whitman, and the Conflicting Discourses of Natural History”

## MARCH

**46<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America**  
UCLA

*The Shakespeare Association of America is a non-profit professional organization for the advanced academic study of William Shakespeare’s plays*

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## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS CONTINUED

**Andrew Keener's** (PhD 2018) article, "Printed Plays and Polyglot Books: The Multilingual Textures of Early Modern English Drama," is forthcoming in *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*. Prior to taking up his new faculty position at Santa Clara University, Andrew spent two months this summer in Berkeley, CA, where he began revising his dissertation into a book manuscript, and conducting research toward a new project at the University of California's Bancroft Library.

Over the summer, **Annie Osenbaugh** (MA 2018) began her studies in Northwestern's Master of Science in Education program, offered by the School of Education and Social Policy.

In September, **Will Pierce** (7<sup>th</sup> year) gave invited presentations at the University of Ottawa Department of Criminology on algorithmic

mass surveillance by Chicago police, based on his work with the non-profit Lucy Parsons Labs. He is co-author of a chapter entitled "Researching Chicago's Predictive Policing: Collaboration and Resistance," forthcoming in a volume from University of Ottawa Press. His journalism has appeared at *Shadowproof* and *Muckrock*, and poetry of his is forthcoming in *The Literary Review*.

**Susanna Sacks** placed a chapter titled "Slam Poetry in Malawi: Digital Media Aesthetics in a Translingual Poetic Form," in an edited volume titled *Digital Technology and Languages in African Communities and Classrooms: Innovations and Opportunities*, forthcoming from Multilingual Matters Press. This summer, she spent time in the UK, interviewing Malawian poets and scholars and working in the archives of the Scotland-Malawi Partnership.

## GRADUATE PAPERS & CONFERENCES CONTINUED

### [48<sup>th</sup> annual Renaissance Society of America Conference](#) New Orleans, LA

*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.*

**Anne Boemler** "Fit Audience, though Few: On Not Writing the Post-Civil War Nation"

### MAY

### [44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the African Literature Association](#) Washington, DC

*The African Literature Association is an independent non-profit professional society open to scholars, teachers and writers from every country. It exists primarily to facilitate the attempts of a world-wide audience to appreciate the efforts of African writers and artists.*

**Susanna Sacks** "Poetry's Interfaces: Tracing Digital Logics in Malawian Performance Poetry"

### [32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Society Conference](#) Las Vegas, NV

**Chad Infante** (PhD 2018) "Blackness and the Butchered Ethics of Manuel Ocampo's Abstraction in *Cooks in the Kitchen*"

### [Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Conference](#) UCLA

*The Native American and Indigenous Studies Association is an interdisciplinary, international membership-based organization, incorporated in 2009 and comprised of scholars working in the fields of Native American and Indigenous Studies, broadly defined.*

**Bonnie Etherington** "Ocean as Marae, Ocean as Archive: Chantal Spitz's *Island of Shattered Dreams*"

**Chad Infante** "Murder, Blackness, and the Disavowal of Native Abjection in Alexie's *Indian Killer* and *Flight*"

### [UC Santa Barbara's Medieval Studies Graduate Conference](#) Santa Barbara, CA

**Uta Ayala** "The commune profit koude she redresse?: The Political Ethics of *Preternatural Brides*"

### JUNE

### [Surveillance Studies Network Conference](#) Aarhus, Denmark

**Will Pierce** presented work on theology and state surveillance in Elizabethan England.

## GRADUATE COLLOQUIA

### American Cultures Colloquium

Each year the American Cultures Colloquium hosts a speaker series designed to foster multi-disciplinary exchange among Northwestern's plurality of Americanist scholars. Last year, the ACC's program included talks by Brian Russell Roberts (Brigham Young University) and Michelle Ann Stephens (Rutgers University), Zakiyyah Jackson (University of Southern California), and Christine Gerhardt (University of Bamberg, Germany). The ACC's 2018-19 series will include talks from Marianne Noble (American University) in the Fall Quarter, Timothy Yu (University of Wisconsin-Madison) in the Winter, and Northwestern's own scholar, Jennifer Nash, Associate Professor of African American Studies and Gender & Sexuality Studies. Other highlights from the upcoming year include the launch of a new interdisciplinary dramatic reading group, an academic publishing workshop, as well as two work-in-progress workshops with advanced PhD candidates.

### Early Modern Colloquium

The Early Modern Colloquium is an interdisciplinary group based in the English Department that hosts conversations between faculty and doctoral students working on early modern/Renaissance cultures from a variety of academic disciplines and departments.

Founded in 2000 and based in the English department, the EMC is administered by advanced graduate students, with the support of faculty. EMC presenters include Northwestern faculty, graduate students, and faculty from other universities. The group builds on the extraordinarily strong early modern presence in Northwestern's Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and other schools and brings into dialogue participants from Art History, Comparative Literature, English, French and Italian, Gender and Sexuality Studies, German, History, Musicology, Philosophy, Poetry and Poetics, Political Science, Spanish and Portuguese, Theatre and Drama, and other departments.

The last academic year was an exciting one in which the EMC organized lectures by outside speakers including Beth Quitslund (English, Ohio University), K. Dawn Grapes (Musicology, Colorado State University), Lia Markey (Director of the Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library), and Michael Cole (Art History, Columbia University). The Departments of Art History and English and the Musicology program co-sponsored these talks. The Early Modern Colloquium's second Annual Faculty Lecture by a Northwestern colleague was delivered by Jeffrey Masten. The group also facilitated discussions of works-in-progress by graduate students Casey Caldwell and Anne Boemler. EMC leaders received especially positive feedback about a novel event held prior to the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, in which graduate students from across disciplines presented versions of the talks they were scheduled to deliver, allowing them to hone their performances and receive constructive feedback. The EMC hopes to repeat this success in the future as part of its efforts to serve as a professional resource for its graduate student participants.

The 2018-19 academic year will continue to feature lectures and workshops on research-in-progress. EMC attendees have already heard from Professor emerita Christine Göttler (Art History, Universität Bern and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow at the Newberry Library) and Professor David Goldstein (English, York University), and will soon be welcoming Professor Emily Wilbourne (Musicology, Queens College and the Graduate Center at the City University of New York). In addition to the Department of English, these events are co-sponsored by the departments of Art History and Musicology. The Annual Faculty Lecture, works-in-progress discussions, and other professional and social functions are in the works. The EMC's co-coordinators this year are Harris Mercer (English) and Nathan Reeves (Musicology) and its faculty liaison is Kasey Evans (English).

### Indigeneity & Native American Studies Colloquium

The Colloquium on Indigeneity and Native American Studies is a graduate student run interdisciplinary academic endeavor that aims to promote and stimulate conversations with Indigenous peoples and politics at Northwestern. In 2018-19, Bonnie Etherington (English) will continue as the Colloquium's President, Alissa Baker-Oglesbee (Cognitive Psychology) is Treasurer, and Kelly Wisecup is our faculty advisor. Last year we collaborated with a number of organizations on campus, including the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research, the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, the Asian American Studies Program, Legal Studies, the Department of Theater, and the Buffett Institute for Global Studies, to host speakers including Vicente Diaz, Christina DeLisle, Hokulani Aikau, Mary Kathryn Nagle, and Stacy Leeds. Over the course of the year we also held quarterly working group meetings, and look forward to continuing our Indigenous studies-related initiatives and programming throughout 2018-19.

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## GRADUATE COLLOQUIA CONTINUED

### Long Nineteenth Century Colloquium

This year, the Long Nineteenth Century Colloquium is co-chaired by Johana Godfrey (English) and Gideon Cohn-Postar (History). The LNCC fosters interdisciplinary connections, conversation, and collaboration between graduate and faculty scholars of the global 19<sup>th</sup>-century, bridging diverse research interests and career stages. Thank you to last-year's chairs, Sarah Mason and Katya Maslakowski, for their fantastic program that included talks by Priya Satia (Stanford), Ivan Kreilkamp (University of Indiana), and Tim Barringer (Yale).

The LNCC Speaker Series has three talks currently scheduled for the 2018-19 year. In the Winter Quarter, Northwestern Professor Tristram Wolff will present a talk on his current work, and Adela Pinch (University of Michigan) will speak on Margaret Oliphant and Anti-Metalepsis. In the Spring Quarter, Preeti Chopra (University of Wisconsin-Madison) will speak on nineteenth-century charitable institutions in Bombay. As in past years, visiting speakers will also offer graduate student master-classes on contemporary, interdisciplinary topics for humanities scholars.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Charlotte Artese's** (PhD 2002) second book, "Shakespeare and the Folktale: An Anthology of Stories" will be published by Princeton University Press in Fall 2019.

**Sarah Blackwood's** (PhD 2009) first book "The Portrait's Subject: Inventing Inner Life in Nineteenth-Century America" is forthcoming from University of North Carolina Press in the Fall of 2019. Over the past summer, Sarah published two book reviews in *The New Yorker* and *The New Republic*, and is currently working on writing the introduction for a new Penguin Classics edition of Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*. The first three books in the *Avidly Reads* book series that Sarah is editing with **Sarah Mesle** (PhD 2009) will be published in Fall 2019.

**Laura Braunstein** (PhD 2000) has had two crossword puzzles published in the *New York Times*. Her puzzles have also appeared in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Puzzle Society, and *Women of Letters*.

**Katy Chiles** (PhD 2008) was awarded an NEH Faculty Fellowship for this year to work on her current book project, "Raced Collaboration in Antebellum America: The Idea of Authorship in Early African American and Native American Literatures." She also was elected to serve for three years on the Advisory Council for the American Literature Society.

In the Spring **Marcy Dinius's** (PhD 2003) essay "I go to Liberia: Following *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to Africa" was published in the collection *Uncle Tom's Cabins: The Transnational History of America's Most Mutable Book*, edited by Northwesterners Tracy Davis and Stefka Mihaylova. Fall 2018 saw the publication of a special issue of *Early American Studies* that Marcy co-edited with Sonia Hazard, visiting assistant professor of religious studies at Franklin & Marshall College, titled *Keywords in Early American Literature and Material Texts*. It features 31 entries by scholars from a range of disciplines, and it culminates the Mellon Foundation-sponsored annual summer seminar in Early American Literature and Material Texts at the Library Company of Philadelphia and the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at Penn. Marcy served as the faculty director of the summer 2014 seminar, and her keyword entry in the collection is "Press."

**Paula R. Feldman** (PhD 1974) recently published *The Collected Poetry of Mary Tighe* with Johns Hopkins University Press. *Modern Language Review* called it "beautifully presented and meticulously researched" and noted that the "detailed introductory essay and scrupulous editorial notes do an impressive job of re-situating Tighe and re-evaluating her work, making this an essential text for scholars of both Tighe and Romantic-period literature more generally." Feldman holds the C. Wallace Martin Chair in English and the Louise Fry Scudder Chair in Liberal Arts at the University of South Carolina, where she specializes in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-century British literature.

## ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

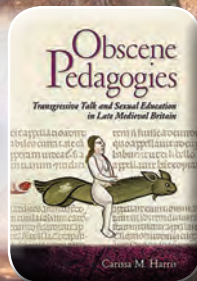
**Paula Feldman**  
(PhD 1974)  
*The Collected Poetry of Mary Tighe* (ed.)  
Johns Hopkins University Press



**Ray Gleason**  
(PhD 1997)  
*The Swabian Affair*  
Morgan James Fiction



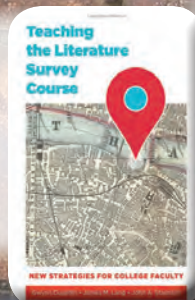
**Carissa Harris**  
(PhD 2012)  
*Obscene Pedagogies: Transgressive Talk and Sexual Education in Late Medieval Britain*  
Cornell University Press



**Paul Hedeon**  
(PhD 1990)  
*Under a Night Sky*  
Final Thursday Press



**James Lang**  
(PhD 1997)  
*Teaching the Literature Survey Course: New Strategies for College Faculty*  
West Virginia University Press



**Ryan Friedman's** (PhD 2004) second book, "The Movies as a World Force: American Silent Cinema and the Utopian Imagination," will be published in early 2019 by Rutgers University Press.

**Chris Hager** (PhD 2003) co-edited "Timelines of American Literature" with Cody Marrs (University of Georgia), to be published by Johns Hopkins University Press early in 2019.

**Carissa Harris's** (PhD 2012) first book, *Obscene Pedagogies: Transgressive Talk and Sexual Education in Late Medieval Britain*, will be published by Cornell University Press in December 2018.

**Paul M. Hedeon** (PhD 1990) followed up the reprinting of his first novel (*The Knowledge Tree*, Wide Water 2013) with his second book of poems, *Under a Night Sky* (Final Thursday, 2016). His second novel ("The Butterfly") will appear in 2019.

**Jackie Hendricks** (PhD 2013) has been promoted to a permanent Lecturer position at Santa Clara University, as well as being appointed director of their Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program.

**Peter Jaros** (PhD 2009) was awarded tenure at Franklin & Marshall College in April 2017.

**Greg Laski** (PhD 2012) is working on a new book project: a cultural history of race and revenge after the Civil War that considers how freedmen and -women deployed various modes of vengeance in support of racial justice. Portions of this work are forthcoming in *American Literature* and Cambridge University Press's new literary history series, *American Literature in Transition* and *African American Literature in Transition*. With this new book, he hopes to reach audiences both within and beyond the academy, and he is trying to figure out why nineteenth-century American literary scholars don't reach the kinds of audiences historians do. He'll make one attempt at an answer in a keynote address for the University of Maryland Public Humanities Symposium in Spring 2019.

**Karen Leick's** (PhD 2002) new book, *Parents, Media, and Panic Through the Years: Kids Those Days*, was published in September by

Palgrave Macmillan. Karen teaches in the English Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Celia Marshik** (PhD 1999) stepped into the role of President of the Modernist Studies Association at the MSA conference in October.

**Hugh McIntosh's** (PhD 2012) first book, *Guilty Pleasures: Popular Novels and American Audiences in the Long Nineteenth Century*, was recently published by the University of Virginia Press.

**Tim Rosendale** (PhD 1998) published three articles and essays in 2017, and his second book, *Theology and Agency in Early Modern Literature* (Cambridge UP), came out in the US this past July. He's been elected President of Southern Methodist University's Faculty Senate for AY 2019-20.

**Derik Smith** (PhD 2004) took a position this Fall as an associate professor at Claremont McKenna College, and published a monograph on Robert Hayden titled *Robert Hayden in Verse: New Histories of African American Poetry and the Black Arts Era*.

**Joshua Smith** (PhD 2011) was awarded tenure in 2018 at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

**Jade Werner** (PhD 2014) has had a few essays published this year; "Altogether a Different Thing?: The Emerging Social Sciences and the New Universalisms of Religious Belief in *Kim*" in a special issue on "New Religious Movements" for *Nineteenth-Century Literature*; "All in the Family? Missionaries, Marriage, and Universal Kinship in *Jane Eyre*" in *Nineteenth-Century Literature*; and "Cranford and the Gothic Everyday" in *Dickens Studies Annual*. A bibliographical piece on "Cosmopolitanism" for *Oxford Bibliographies in Victorian Literature* is forthcoming, and lastly, she's been working with Joshua King (Baylor University) on an edited collection titled "Constructing Nineteenth-Century Religion: Literary, Historical, and Religious Studies in Dialogue" that's coming out in May, 2019.

**Hugh McIntosh**  
(PhD 2012)  
*Guilty Pleasures: Popular Novels and American Audiences in the Long Nineteenth Century*  
University of Virginia Press



**Karen Leick**  
(PhD 2002)  
*Parents, Media, and Panic Through the Years: Kids Those Days*  
Palgrave Macmillan



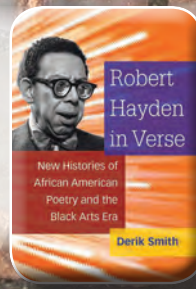
**Celia Marshik**  
(PhD 1999)  
*Modernism, Sex, and Gender*  
Bloomsbury Academic



**Timothy Rosendale**  
(PhD 1998)  
*Theology and Agency in Early Modern Literature*  
Cambridge University Press



**Derik Smith**  
(PhD 2004)  
*Robert Hayden in Verse: New Histories of African American Poetry and the Black Arts Era*  
University of Michigan Press



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