

April 2010

BYWORDS

Department of English Newsletter

You may stare out of a south window for hours
and feel the April sunlight dissolve the shifting leaves,
and you may dream sunlight opening a red camellia.
You may eat monkey brains and bear paws,

but, out of disordered passions and a disordered mind,
can you construct yellow doors that open in silence into summer?

-- Arthur Sze



HIGHLIGHTS



The *Asian American Literary Review*, edited by Maryland's own Gerald Maa and Lawrence-Minh Bui Davis, presents **"8:A Symposium"** in Ulrich Recital Hall **Saturday, April 24** from 10:00AM to 5:00PM. A cavalcade of stars from the pages of the *Review* will read from their work: Peter Bacho, Ru Freeman, Ed Lin, Srikanth Reddy, and more. A book signing will take place at 4:00PM.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Ray Siemens (University of Victoria) will lead a **Seminar on Electronic Reading**, titled "Foundations for a Future of the History of the Book: Books, Bits, and INKE," on Monday, 4/26/10 at 3:30PM in Tawes 3132. Siemens will present another talk, "Tool Mashing, The Devonshire MS (BL Add 17492) and its Networks," for **Digital Dialogues**, Tuesday, 4/27/10 at 12:00PM in McKeldin B0135.

The **Eighteenth-Century Reading Group** will hold a brown bag lunch on Wednesday, 4/28/10 at 12:00PM to discuss "Teaching the Long Eighteenth Century" on both sides of the Atlantic. Room TBA.

Litfest, showcasing top undergraduate creative writing talent, will be held on Wednesday, 4/28/10 at 7:00PM in St. Mary's Hall. The 2010 issue of *Stylus* will be unveiled!

John Kulka, Executive Editor in the Humanities for Harvard University Press, will speak on **"The State of Academic Publishing"** on Thursday, 4/29/10 at 1:00PM in Tawes 2115.

Amy Hungerford (Yale University) will be giving a talk on Dave Eggers, **"Reading Dave Eggers In School."** Doctoral student Kyle Garton will be serving as commentator. Friday, 4/30/10 at 3:30PM in Tawes 1106.

Jeanne Fahnestock will deliver this year's **CTE University of Maryland Faculty Excellence in Teaching Lecture** on "Fusing Teaching and Scholarship," scheduled for Wednesday 5/5/10 at 12:00PM in the Maryland Room of Marie Mount Hall.

Join **Writers Here & Now** to celebrate the winner of the Katherine Anne Porter Fiction Prize (Tom Earles) and the Academy of American Poets Prize (Noah Siela) on Wednesday, 5/5/10 at 7:00PM

The final **Critical Theory Colloquium** will be a joint meeting with the **18th-Century Reading Group** on "Enlightenment Protocols." William Warner (UC Santa Barbara) will a special guest speaker. Friday, 5/7/10 at 4:00PM.

PWP's **23rd annual Writing Contest Awards Ceremony** is scheduled for Wednesday, 5/12/10 at 1:30PM in Ulrich Recital Hall. Our guest speaker this year will be the Honorable Henry B. Heller, a Montgomery County Delegate to the Maryland General Assembly. A reception will follow.

www.english.umd.edu/bywords

Order Your Fall Semester Books!

It's time to order your Summer and Fall 2010 textbooks. The University Book Center and Maryland Book Exchange have changed their deadline to **April 1st** for Summer, and **April 15th** for Fall.

However, the sooner the stores have the information they need to order your textbooks, the sooner they will have the books available for our students. If you know the course(s) you'll be teaching, please order books from University Book Center and Maryland Book Exchange ASAP! We strongly recommend to order your textbooks electronically, this will allow UBC to post them on Testudo as soon as the order is received and verified. You will need to register the first time you use the UBC website. If you need help with the electronic form, please see Isabella. Please note that each bookstores require separate electronic forms. If a course does not require textbooks, both stores, and I need to know. If you're placing orders "exclusively" with UBC, please note this, in their new form "comment screen," and if MBE becomes your "exclusive" book store, e-mail Marge Robling on mrobling@md.bookex.com to let her know.

When ordering books electronically from University Book Center, please forward to Isabella's attention, either by hard copy or by e-mail attachment, a copy of your confirmation, for the Main English Office file. I don't need a copy from MBE, unless they're exclusive.

Please let Isabella know if you've ordered from one or both bookstores.

The University Book Center:
<http://www.umcp.bkstore.com>

click on "Faculty," than on "Register" (if it's your first time)

Maryland Book Exchange:
<http://www.marylandbook.com>

click on "Faculty Information," than on "Faculty Adoptions Form"

FYI, Faculty **must** [submit acknowledgement](#) with the the state's Textbook Affordability Law.

The Coastal Encounters of Ralph Bauer

If you're looking for Ralph Bauer, he can be spotted somewhere along the eastern seaboard over the coming months. See map below for a hint as to his whereabouts.

St. Augustine, Florida, 1589



Bauer is co-chairing the conference "Early American Borderlands," which will take place at Flagler College in St.

Augustine, FL, 12-15 May, 2010. The conference, which is a continuation of the "First early Ibero/Anglo Americanist Summit" (Tucson, AZ, 2002) and "Beyond Colonial Studies" (Providence, RI, 2004), will bring together ca. two hundred scholars with an interest in the early Americas from different fields, including English, Spanish/Portuguese, French, History, Art History, Anthropology, American Studies, and Latin American Studies.

The aim of the conference is to explore early American borderlands as spaces of cultural, linguistic, and sexual encounters, as well as to promote comparative perspectives and cross-disciplinary dialogues in the study of the early Americas. The event will be co-sponsored by the Society of Early Americanists (SEA), Flagler College, the University of Maryland, the University of Kansas, Spain's Ministry of Culture Program of Cooperation with American Universities, and the St. Augustine Historical Society. More information [available here](#).

In other news, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation have awarded a combined fellowship to **Ralph Bauer** for research at the John Carter Brown Library in Providence.

Bauer will be researching his current book project, "The Alchemy of Conquest: Prophecy and the Secrets of Nature in the Early Americas," which looks at the language of the 'occult' sciences in the literatures of discovery and conquest during the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries. In particular, Bauer plans to focus on the imagery and scientific rhetoric of alchemy, astrology, and prophecy in the early literature about the New World.

Good News For Four Jolly Good Fellows

Congratulations to **Kimberly Coles** and **Jason Rudy** who have been promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure. "We look forward to their continued presence for many years as valued colleagues," says Department Chair Kent Cartwright.

Gerard Passannante has been awarded a year-long fellowship at the National Humanities Center for 2010-11. Jerry will be working on a new book-length project on "Earthquakes of the Mind: Natural Disaster and Humanism, 1348-1580."

'95 MFA Alumnus **Patrick Phillips** is one of nine poets to win a 2010 Guggenheim Fellowship. Patrick will be working on his third volume of poetry.

In Memoriam, George Panichas



The Department mourns the loss of George A. Panichas, Emeritus Professor of English, who passed away March 17, 2010. George was a faculty member in the Department of English from 1962 to 1992, passed away on March 17. He was 79.

A prodigious scholar and critic, Panichas wrote books on Dostoevsky, Conrad, Lawrence and Irving Babbitt; he edited works by Simone Weil, Russell Kirk, and Austin Warren; and he was also a prolific literary essayist. In addition, he served as

editor for *Modern Age: A Quarterly Review*, which he took over from Russell Kirk in 1982. His work was well received: Walter Jackson Bate, for example, described his book on Babbitt as "a penetrating study of the most influential humanist of the twentieth century."

Recollections from Bill Peterson:

"George Panichas was a brilliant and charming man. I got to know him quite well through the years, and I was always impressed by his intellectual and moral passion. Only rarely are we academics able to see a colleague actually teaching, but I once got a glimpse of this side of George's personality back in the early eighties, when I was in charge of a series of lectures at St. Andrew's Church in College Park. The theme of the series was "Religion and the Arts," and I invited George to participate. George's lecture struck me as exceptionally complex and demanding. My first thought was, "Oh my, he's talking way over their heads." But it was delivered with a truly astonishing moral fervor, and I remember that afterwards George was surrounded by a large crowd of enthusiastic admirers. In private he was quiet and modest, yet behind a lectern he became a spellbinder."

Recollections from Jackson Bryer:

"George was the consummate professional, almost monk-like in his total dedication to his research and teaching. He was an enormously popular teacher because of his vast store of knowledge and his meticulous approach to preparing his classes. He was very much old school and old world, never really shedding his heritage as the member of a Greek immigrant family (every vacation he would go home to his family in Massachusetts, as I recall). He wore a coat and tie to teach, even into the period when such formalities were beginning to be abandoned. I suppose the "bottom line," as it were, was that, while he held us all to a very high standard as teachers and scholars, he never held us to any standard that he himself could not meet."

A link to the obituary in the [Washington Post](#).

FACULTY NEWS

Maud Casey received a fellowship to the Chateau de Lavigny International Writers' Residence in Lavigny, Switzerland. She will be in residence for three weeks in August.

Former graduate student and PWP instructor **Stanley Dambrowski** had his speech "How Johnny Can Write: A Proposal for Improving Writing in the Workplace" published in the March 2010 issue of *Vital Speeches of the Day*.

Aparajita De's essay "Temptations to an Indian Wedding: Reading Meera Nair's Monsoon Wedding" has been accepted to the RMMLA conference at their October 2010 meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Jeanne Fahnestock's new book, *Rhetorical Stylistics: The Language of Persuasion*, was accepted by Oxford University Press and will come out early next year. She was also elected to the Council of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric.

Merrill Feitell received a Fellowship from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. She will be in residence for the month of June.

Tod Jones's book, *Letters from a Theist*, has just been published by Xlibris Books. Tod also notes that he has been accepted into the College of Library Information Studies and will begin work toward an MLS in the Fall.

On March 30, **Matthew Kirschenbaum** was a studio guest on the Kojo Nnamdi Show, discussing his work with colleagues at the University of Illinois and the Library of Congress on the Preserving Virtual Worlds project. Listen to the broadcast [here](#). The project was also written up in the March issue of the *Atlantic magazine*, with quotations from Kirschenbaum and **Kari Kraus**.

Liora Moriel will present her ongoing experience and research on using technology in undergraduate classes in a talk entitled "Ask, Tell, and Intel: Using Mobile Technology in a CORE Classroom" during the University of Maryland's Fourth Annual ITL Conference on Friday, April 23. Moriel will not only share classroom research data but also walk participants through one of her learning modules, so if you come, be sure to bring your favorite mobile hardware!

Writing Center administrators **Leigh Ryan, Joe Kautzer, and Maria Gigante**, and tutors **Elizabeth Choy, Christopher Henry, Taji Mortazavi, Ruth Okeke, and Tyce Wilkins** represented our Writing Center well at the Mid-Atlantic Writing Center Association conference at the University of Delaware on April 9 and 10. Their four presentations and two poster sessions dealt with a range of topics—roles of writing consultants, evaluating tutors, the transfer of tutoring skills into the business world, nonverbal communication skills in tutoring, and feminism and tutoring. The undergraduate tutors will also present shorter versions of their papers at Undergraduate Research Day in McKeldin Library on April 27.

STUDENT NEWS

Anna Bedford will present her paper "Salvation and Survival in the Works of Margaret Atwood," at the Association for the Study of Women and Mythology's 2010 conference, in Pennsylvania this month. ASWM's conference this year is "The Green Goddess: Ecofeminism and Women's Spirituality." Anna's paper is an analysis of spiritual ecofeminism in Atwood's speculative fiction and, in particular, *The Year of the Flood* (2009).

Heather Brown, Martin Camper, and Lindsay Dunne formed a panel called "Rhetoric in Circulation: Tracing the Paths of Discourse in the Public Sphere" for the 2010 Conference on College Composition and Communications. Their papers were, respectively, "Creating Spaces for Abortion Trauma: Genre, Testimony, and the World Wide Web," "Prayer and Place: Creating Sacred Places in Virtual Spaces," and "Public Cure/Counterpublic Cause: Rhetorics of the Breast Cancer Movement."

Peter Grybauskas presented "Tolkien at the Margins: Wanderers in Middle-earth" at the Tolkien 2010 conference at the University of Vermont on April 10. In May, Peter will again speak on *The Lord of the Rings* at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo with paper entitled "Tolkien's Ramblin' Men."

Congratulations to **Nabila Hijazi** for winning the first place presentation award in the session "Exploring Identities and their Expression" at the Graduate Research Interaction Day (GRID) on April 7. Nabila's paper was entitled "A Contrastive Rhetoric Approach for an Enhanced Mission of Teaching Second Language Writing."

Sara Schotland presented a paper, "Women on Trial in Renaissance English Drama," for a panel on law and marriage at the annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America in Chicago on April 3. Sara also presented a paper on Hogarth and Cosmopolitanism at the annual NEMLA meeting in Montreal on April 9.

Judy Spence is co-director of *The Last Supper*, a medieval play from the Chester Mystery Cycle. The play will be performed at the Medieval Drama Festival at the University of Toronto in May. Over the course of three days, acting troupes from all over the United States and Canada will perform twenty-three plays of the cycle much as it was done in Chester, England in the 16th century. The actors will perform on pageant wagons that serve as mobile stages which are pulled from one acting station to the next. In addition, Judy is the sole director of *Christ's Mercy*, an amalgamation of three plays from the Chester Cycle. Both plays will be performed at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV in April.

Katherine Young was invited to attend the "Southern Writers Southern Writing" graduate conference at the University of Mississippi this July, where she will read from her poetry chapbook *Gentling the Bones*.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The next edition of Bywords will be released on Thursday, May 20. Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplished accomplishments by Friday, May 14th.