

# BYWORDS

Department of English Newsletter

The theme of a work should express some inner latent question in yourself. It is best when this is so deeply present that no one else would recognize it. Without this you will become bored with writing.

-- Thornton Wilder

## HIGHLIGHTS



The fiction of Thornton Wilder is poised for a major rediscovery, thanks in part to the efforts of the Center for Literary and Comparative. **“Wait til I’m Dead,”** a colloquium on Wilder, will be held Saturday, March 27 from 9:00AM to 5:00PM in 1400 Marie Mount Hall.

On the occasion of the landmark publication by the Library of America of Wilder’s *The Bridge of San Luis Rey and Other Novels 1926-1948*, scholars in classics and American literature, journalists, biographers, and family members will participate in this one-day program of lectures, panels, interviews, and readings that will try to place Wilder’s fiction in American literary history and culture. The day will conclude with a reading by Tony Award-winning actress Rosemary Harris.

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Kimberly Anne Coles will present “‘Humorous is my contrition’: body and soul in John Donne’s Holy Sonnets” for **Renaissance Reckonings** on Friday, 3/26/10 at 12:00PM in Tawes 3136.

**Local Americanists** welcomes Cecelia Tichi (Vanderbilt University) for a talk entitled “Civic Protest in the American Novel on Friday, 3/26/10 at 3:30PM in Tawes 0236.

The **Critical Theory Colloquium** will convene to discuss French PhD Candidate Silvia Baage’s precirculated paper, “Whose *IS-LAND* Is It Anyways? A Critical Comment on the Essence of Post-Colonial Theory in the Postmodern World.” Friday, 3/26/10 at 4:00PM in Tawes 3132.

Fiction and Poetry MFA students will read from their recent work for the **Mock Turtle Reading Series** at Wonderland Ballroom in Columbia Heights, Washington, DC. Friday, 3/26/10 at 6:30PM.

The **Washington Area Romanticists Group** will meet at Georgetown University for a talk titled “Problems of Particularity: Edmund Burke, Jeremy Bentham, and Michael Jackson” by Erin Goss (Loyola University, Maryland). Saturday, 3/27/10 at 10:00AM.

The **Transatlantic Poetics** lecture series welcomes Kate Thomas (Bryn Mawr College) on Friday, 4/2/10 at 4:00PM. Location TBD.

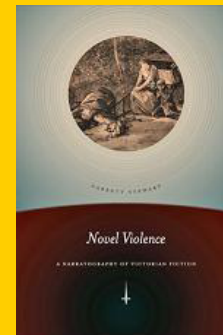
The **LGBT Studies Lecture Series** welcomes Jafari Allen (Yale University) for a talk titled “‘In the Life’ in Black Diaspora: Desire, Autonomy, Community.” Wednesday, 4/7/10 at 5:00PM, Tawes 1101.

Stacey Margolis (University of Utah) will lead a **Local Americanists** discussion of her pre-circulated paper “Arthur Mervyn: Fever and Networks in Philadelphia” on Thursday, 4/8/10 at 12:15PM. Location TBD.

[www.english.umd.edu/bywords](http://www.english.umd.edu/bywords)

## Garrett Stewart will Deliver 2010 Petrou Lecture

**Garrett Stewart**, James O. Freedman Professor of Letters at the University of Iowa, will give the 2010 Petrou Lecture:

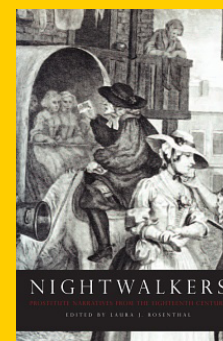


“Cinema’s Digital Turn”  
Tuesday, April 6 @ 3:30PM  
Location TBD.  
A reception will follow.

Stewart has published widely on Victorian literature, narrative theory, textual poetics, visuality studies, and film. His most recent book, *Novel Violence: A Narratography of Victorian Fiction* (University of Chicago Press, 2009), examines “brutal human existence” in Dickens, Anne Brontë, Eliot, and Hardy.

## Rosenthal Will Lead Discussion on Nightwalkers in McKeldin

**Laura Rosenthal** will discuss and sign her 2008 book, *Nightwalkers: Prostitute Narratives from the Eighteenth Century*, Wednesday, April 7 at 4:30pm in McKeldin Library’s Special Events Room. Light refreshments will be served, and copies of the book will be available for purchase.



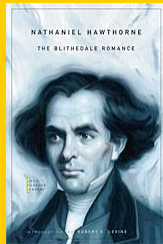
This talk is part of the UM Libraries’ series, “Speaking of Books: Conversations with Campus Authors.” For more information, click [here](#).

## English Department Well-Represented on Presidential Search Committee

Professor of English **Carla Peterson** and Ph.D. Candidate in Comparative Literature **Anna Bedford** were appointed to the University's presidential search committee by Chancellor William E. Kirwan. Peterson is representing ARHU and Bedford is representing the graduate student body. Sounds like the future of the university is in good hands!

## Levine's Edition of *The Blithedale Romance* Published by Harvard

Professor of English Bob Levine calls *The Blithedale Romance* Nathaniel Hawthorne's "quirkiest" novel, but the work's quirks "point to his larger ambitions: to depict a fractured and decadent antebellum culture in dire need of a revitalization of the reform spirit that Hawthorne traces back to New England's seventeenth-century Puritans." Levine's introduction for the John Harvard edition can be read now on the Harvard University Press [website](#).



## Name That Library!

Construction broke ground in 1908 for the library pictured to the right. Today, all things leonine, from bookmarks to French crystal paperweights, are available in the gift shop. Answer on Page 3.

## Pearson-Produced Album Debuts at #6 on Billboard Blues Charts

Smithsonian Folkways has released *Classic Appalachian Blues*, a compilation produced by Professor **Barry Pearson** and Jeff Place, an archivist for the Smithsonian Institution. The new collection features 21 tracks by artists from the Carolinas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. The collection of songs draws from the archives of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Recordings from Sticks McGhee, Doc Watson, Big Chief Ellis with Cephas and Wiggins, and others survey the range of Piedmont blues style as heard from the 1950s through the present day.



The Piedmont style is the "mountain cousin" of the Delta blues heard on previous Pearson productions *Classic Blues, Vols. 1 and 2* and *Honeyboy Edwards: Mississippi Delta Bluesman*. According to the Smithsonian Folkways website, "Appalachian blues bears the stamp of a distinctive regional blend of European and African styles and sounds born at the cultural crossroads of railroad camps, mines, and rural settlements."

*Classic Appalachian Blues*, Pearson's sixth album for Smithsonian Folkways, climbed to #3 on the Billboard Blues charts for the week of March 13, 2010, after debuting at #6 on March 6.

Read a [review](#) of *Classic Appalachian Blues* that appeared in the *Washington Post* on February 14. You can also download the liner notes and a free track from the album on the [Smithsonian Folkways website](#).



## Poets, Critics, and Readers Come Together for Rereading Poets Reading, April 15-16

Why don't poets, critics, and readers meet face-to-face more often? Why are there poetry readings apart from critical lectures about poetry? Rereading Poets Reading is a two-day conference bringing together poets, critics, and readers of all levels to interrogate and celebrate reading in the twenty-first century through a variety of interactive seminars, critical presentations, creative writing workshops, and poetry readings. Participants will include Rachel Blau DuPlessis, Alicia Ostriker, Joe Donahue, Lara Vetter, Janlori Goldman and more. Visit the [conference website](#) to register for the poetry workshops.

Let's hope the weather holds out for a catered reception and open mic on Tawes's rooftop deck!



# ( NEWS )

## FACULTY NEWS

**Maud Casey's** novel excerpt, "Yet Another Escapade," appeared serially in *Five Chapters* (3/15-3/19) and can still be found in the [archives](#). Her story, "The Prince Who Wanted to See the World," is forthcoming in *The Normal School*.

**Zahara Heckscher** will teach three classes at the Writers Center in Bethesda this spring: Writing and Healing for Cancer Survivors, Teen Poetry Workshop, and Writing Staycation.

**Bob Levine's** essay on "American Studies in an Age of Extinction" recently appeared in *States of Emergency: The Object of American Studies*, ed. Russ Castronovo and Susan Gillman (University of North Carolina Press, 2009). His co-edited edition of James M. Whitfield's poetry will be published later this year by North Carolina.

**Michael Olmert** has written on coffeehouse culture for the Spring issue of *Colonial Williamsburg*, a journal of eighteenth-century studies. The piece also covers the reconstruction of Carlton's coffeehouse (ca. 1760) after 15 years of architectural, archaeological, and social-history research. The article is available [here](#).

## STUDENT NEWS

**Fernando Benavidez** has published a short story called "Montezuma, My Revolver" in a new Norton Anthology that came out this month titled *Sudden Fiction Latino: Short Short Stories from the United States and Latin America*. Along with new writers, it also includes established Latin American and U.S. Latino writers, such as Luis Alberto Urrea, Junot Diaz, G.G. Marquez, Helena Maria Viramontes, Sandra Cisneros, Roberto Bolano, and UMD's own Jose E. Pacheco.

**T.J. Moretti's** "Misthinking the King: The Theatrics of Christian Rule in *Henry VI, Part 3*" won the 2009-2010 Dr. Joseph M. Schwartz Memorial Essay Prize, awarded to the essay judged to be the best published in *Renascence: Essays on Value in Literature* over the last two years. The prize is worth \$1,000. Moretti's winning essay appeared in *Renascence* 60.4 (Summer 2008).

**Sara Schotland's** article "Man as Brute and Beast as Exemplar: Man and Animals in Wordsworth's Poetry" has just been published in *New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century* 7.1 (Feb. 2010). She will present a paper, "Mis-Stagings of American Justice in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*" at the Chesapeake American Studies Association conference on March 27.

### Name that Library Answer

Two lions, Patience and Fortitude, survey the scene at the intersection of 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, also known as New York Public Library's "main branch." The Stephen A. Schwarzman Building houses NYPL's collections in the humanities, social sciences, and special collections. Formed by the consolidation of the Astor and Lenox Libraries, the NYPL and its trademark beaux arts reading room rank among the top research libraries in the world.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplished accomplishments by  
Friday, April 16th.

Please include dates, locations, and titles of papers/lectures/etc. in your news submissions.  
Bywords e-mail: [englweb@umd.edu](mailto:englweb@umd.edu)

Visit [www.english.umd.edu](http://www.english.umd.edu) for more news updates and upcoming events!