

May 2010

BYWORDS

Department of English Newsletter

Of their falshode more could I recount,
But now the bright Sunne gynneth to dismount:
And for the deawie night now doth nye,
I hold it best for vs, home to hye.
-- Edmund Spenser



HAPPY TRAILS

Looking back over the 2010 calendar reminded me what an amazing semester it has been: thirty-four sponsored lectures, nine creative writing readings, numerous workshops and reading groups, a food drive and a number of departmental parties, and six conferences and symposia. On a personal note, this month marks the end of my tenure as Bywords editor, a job I've enjoyed immensely over the last two years. This opportunity has helped me get to know our department. Month in, month out, I have been continually impressed by the erudition, passion, and collegiality of the faculty, students, and staff. Congratulations to all on an incredible first year in Tawes!

Have a terrific summer,
Rob

DISSERTATION MANIA



Chris Brown has been selected as a Ford Dissertation Fellow for 2010-11. Twenty fellowships were awarded this year to Ph.D. and Sci.D. students at universities nationwide. The award comes with a \$21,000 stipend and, expenses paid to a conference of Ford Fellows, and access to a network of Ford Fellow mentors. Chris's dissertation, "The Shape of Incommensurability: Law and the African American Literary Tradition," is being written under the direction of Professor Mary Helen Washington.

In university and departmental fellowship news, **Jennifer Wellman** has been awarded a Mary Savage Snouffer Dissertation Fellowship for 2010-11. Jennie is writing her dissertation, "Oral Storytelling and the Paradox of Modernist Narrative," under Professor Brian Richardson's direction.

Eric Curry and **Joanne Roby** have been awarded 2010-2011 Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowships. Eric is writing his dissertation, "Strategic Imagination, Radical Circulation: Studies in African American Print Culture in the Long Nineteenth Century," under the direction of Professor Robert Levine. Joanne is writing her dissertation, "Private Scandal in the Public Sphere: The Polemical Mode of the Early Eighteenth Century," under Professor Laura Rosenthal's direction.

Rebecca Lush will be the Harman-Ward Fellow for 2010-11. Rebecca is writing her dissertation, "The 'Other' Woman: Early Modern English Representations of Native American Women," under the co-direction of Professors Ralph Bauer and Jane Donawerth.

Tanya Clement is the winner of the 2009 Carl Bode Dissertation Award. Tanya's dissertation, "The Makings of Digital Modernism: Rereading Gertrude Stein's The Making of Americans and poetry by Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven," was directed by Professor Matt Kirschenbaum.

The winner of the 2009 Alice Geyer Dissertation Award is **Lisa Zimmerelli**. Lisa's dissertation, "A Genre of Defense: Hybridity in Nineteenth-Century American Women's Defenses of Preaching," was directed by Professor Jane Donawerth. Lisa also won the all-campus American Association of University Women dissertation award and gave a talk to the AAUW College Park chapter on her dissertation on Saturday, May 8.

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UPCOMING DEADLINES and DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

Reminder: Graduating students will receive their degrees at Spring Commencement at Reckord Armory at 11:00AM on Friday, May 21. Doors will open at 10:30AM; the event is expected to run until 12:30PM. More info is available [here](#).

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.

We strongly recommend ordering your textbooks electronically, this will allow UBC to post them on Testudo as soon as the order is received and verified. Please note that each bookstore requires 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" bookstore, 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.

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 state's Textbook Affordability Law.

Teaching Awards for Grad Students

In teaching news, the Department of English has recognized **Stephanie Graham** for her outstanding contributions to the teaching of literature with the James A. Robinson Prize for the Teaching of Literature.

Thomas Geary and **Adam Lloyd** are this year's recipients of the James A. Robinson Prize for the Teaching of Writing. Associate Chair Theresa Coletti cited in particular their "stellar work in developing ENGL278Z, Writing in a Wireless World."

In addition to the departmental awards, the university's Center for Teaching Excellence has also acknowledged the exemplary service to undergraduates provided by graduate teaching assistants in the Department. The winner of this year's CTE Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award are **Maggie Fromm, Mark Hoffman, Katherine Young, Shenandoah Sowash, Jacqueline Orlando, Michelle Boswell, Amy Merritt, Andy Black, Kara Fontenot, and Elizabeth Kelly Martin.**

Center for Literary and Comparative Studies Announces Fall Conference

The Center will be sponsoring a symposium, "Reading Comparatively: Theories, Practices, Communities," on November 4-5, 2010. **Louis Menand** (Harvard University, *The New Yorker*) will be the keynote speaker; participants should accordingly be cautious about mounting their **grammarians high horses**.

This symposium will primarily be an in-house affair and a springboard to a larger regional or national conference in Fall 2011. One of the broad aims of the symposium is to enable a critical rethinking of the act of reading, which is what we in departments throughout the College of Arts and Humanities undertake on a daily basis, in our scholarly work as well as in the classroom. To that end the organizers envision the conference bringing together scholars working across the College on the topic of comparative reading writ large.

Contact **Bob Levine** for more information at clcs@umd.edu

More articles on recent department activities are available on our [web site](#)! If you have an idea for an article, please e-mail englweb@umd.edu

Tenure-Track Placements for PhD Students

Five PhD students have landed tenure-track positions for this fall! "Given the worst academic employment market in memory, these placements are impressive and enviable," says Kent Cartwright. The continued success of recently minted PhDs is a testament to the caliber of work by our students and the preparation from our faculty for happy academic lives. Here are their thoughts on post-Maryland careers:



Heather Brown will join the English Department at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey, as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition. She is very excited about this position because it entails teaching a wide range of courses, including composition, literature, and linguistics. In the meantime, she plans to spend the summer focusing on her research, which concerns the role of personal testimony rhetoric of the contemporary abortion debate in the United States. Her dissertation was directed by Jeanne Fahnestock.



Michelle Brown is thrilled to remain in the gorgeous Shenandoah Valley to work closely with students in small classes at Shenandoah University. In the fall, she will teach a First Year Seminar (FYS) on postcolonial black literature and an upper-level survey of contemporary world literatures. As the department's first specialist in Postcolonial literatures, Michelle looks forward to developing new courses for English, FYS, and the Women's Studies Program. Her dissertation, "Screams Somehow Echoing: Trauma and Testimony in Anglophone African Literature," was directed by Sangeeta Ray.



Tim Crowley is excited to have been hired as Assistant Professor of Comparative Renaissance Literatures in the English Department at Texas Tech University. This title fits Tim's research and teaching interests well; his work focuses primarily on sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century English authors' critical engagement with classical literature and with sixteenth-century European literature. Next year, he will be teaching junior-level courses on English Renaissance literature and on classical & medieval European literature. Such range in teaching will complement his current book project on Sir Philip Sidney's "Arcadia" and Spanish chivalric romance, as well as my ongoing work toward a second book project on Christopher Marlowe and the classical tradition." Tim's dissertation, "Feigned Histories: Philip Sidney and the Poetics of Spanish Chivalric Romance," was chaired by Donna Hamilton.



Heidi Scott is starting as Assistant Professor at Florida International University with a position in Ecocriticism. Since the position is open period, she'll be free to wander somewhat from her home ground in 19th century British Literature. In addition to working on a book manuscript, she anticipates researching 21st century environments and contemporary literature. "The dramatically changed ecosystems of South Florida are emblematic of our anthropogenic environment, where the draining of the Everglades, massive urban expansion, habitat encroachment, eutrophication of watersheds, hurricanes, rising sea levels, and oil spills are all issues needing attention from scholars in the humanities as well as the sciences," says Heidi. She will be teaching courses on Literature and the Environment, Nature and Catastrophe, and British Romantic literature in her first year, in addition to an expectation for an actively interdisciplinary research orientation. Heidi completed her dissertation on "Chaos & the Microcosm: The Roots of Ecology in Nineteenth-Century British Literature" under the direction of Neil Fraistat.

Lisa Zimmerelli has accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Writing and Director of the Writing Center at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore, starting in August 2010. Lisa's dissertation, "A Genre of Defense: Hybridity in Nineteenth-Century American Women's Defenses of Women's Preaching," was directed by Jane Donawerth.

FACULTY NEWS

Kent Cartwright is the 2009-10 winner of the Graduate English Organization Faculty Service Award. Each year the recipient of the GEO Faculty Service Award is chosen based on outstanding service to graduate students. Some of the remarks in his nominations include praise for “securing funding and other opportunities for graduate students” as well as a “wholehearted effort to give time to grad students despite administrative demands.”

GEO named **Kandice Chuh** the first winner of a new Mentorship Award, named in Kandice’s honor. The award celebrates her generous service to graduate students and the department.

Tita Chico published two articles from her current work on eighteenth-century literature and experimental philosophy in *Philological Quarterly* and *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*. She was also awarded the ASECS/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research Fellowship to conduct research at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas. With Toni Bowers (University of Pennsylvania), she is co-editing a volume of original essays, *Seduction and Sentiment in the Atlantic World, 1660-1800*, to be published by Palgrave Macmillan. Finally, *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*, for which she serves as Editor, moved to the University of Pennsylvania Press and is now a quarterly (moreover, each issue is expanding from 96 pp. to 128 pp.). The inaugural number of *ECTI* published by Penn Press is a special issue in honor of the ASECS Women’s Caucus’ 35th Anniversary, “The Future of Feminist Theory in Eighteenth-Century Studies,” guest edited by **Laura J. Rosenthal**.

Three students from **Melanie Faith’s** Fall 2009 English 391 class created the new Farmer’s Market on campus. The idea began as a final project in Melanie’s class. As Melanie wrote in her comment in a recent issue of *The Diamondback*, “Having a student project of mine and others take flight like this was a huge success for the student body and should highlight the University’s helpfulness with student endeavors, as well.”

One of **Pam Gerhardt’s** former 398R students and mentee, Ellen Bryan, is now an assistant editor of *Ploughshares*. A Spanish major, Bryan graduated in December 2008 and started in the Publishing and Writing program at Emerson College last Fall.

On May 14 and 15th **Matthew Kirschenbaum** hosted an invitational meeting sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation on Computer Forensics and Cultural Heritage, which

brought to campus over 60 specialists and researchers from the US, Canada, and the UK. The meeting was the first of its kind to discuss the role of forensic computing for born-digital literary and other cultural and creative materials. Kirschenbaum is currently co-authoring a report on the subject, to be published in the fall by the Council on Library and Information Resources.

Rebecca J. Ritzel has received a fellowship from the Music Critics Association of North America to attend Luminato, Toronto’s annual arts festival, in June. With some trepidation, she is looking forward to reviewing Rufus Wainwright’s new opera and several world premiere performances.

In 2006, one of **Marybeth Shea’s** students, as a part of a class assignment, wrote directions for making balloon animals out of long, thin balloons and posted it to a WikiHow website. The One Laptop per Child (OLPC) program has selected the student’s directions as a lesson for students working on the OLPC computers. Children in developing countries who access the web through their OLPC computer may now read about the student’s balloon animals. “The student’s directions may very well have circled the globe several times by now,” says Marybeth.

At the C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference at Penn State University (May 20-23), **Martha Nell Smith** will give two papers, “‘Read Me’-- Poetry is ‘My Sermon--My Hope--My Solace--My Life’: Emily Dickinson in the Drawing Room,” and, with **Julie Enszer** (WMST PhD candidate; UM MFA 2008), “Enclaves in Digital Humanities: Perils & Possibilities.” With Meredith McGill (Rutgers University), Smith has organized two Pecha Kucha panels, “New Media and Scholarly Presentations,” that feature 7 scholars from across the country. Usually pronounced “pe-chak-cha,” Pecha Kucha is a recently developed format (originating in Tokyo’s world of architecture and design) in which each presenter has 20 or so slides, each of which is displayed for 20 seconds as the presenter explains her ideas. Fast-paced and highly creative, the pecha kucha format usually generates exciting critical conversation. These sessions are part of McGill and Smith’s ongoing experimentations with new delivery formats for scholarly exchange. Smith’s work on Dickinson was mentioned on the front page of the [NYTimes Arts & Leisure](#) on May 11.

David Wyatt’s article, “LA Fiction to Mid-Century,” is out this month in [The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of Los Angeles](#).



(NEWS cont.)

STUDENT NEWS

Anna Bedford (Comparative Literature) was elected President of the Graduate Student Government for 2010-2011. **Jacqueline Orlando** (Creative Writing) was elected Vice President for Legislative Affairs. The Graduate Student Government (GSG) represents approximately 12,000 graduate students at the University of Maryland College Park and advocates for graduate students at the campus, system, and State level.

Anna Bedford and **Dave Eubanks** (PhD 2005) will present "Creating Communities of Teachers: An Inclusive Teaching Resource Guide" as a poster presentation at the Lilly East Conference on College and University Teaching this June.

The Kinnaird Prizes for the best essays written by an MA and a PhD student in 2009 go to **Lewis Gleich**, for his essay "The Effects of Poetic Devices on Plot Construction: Toward a Theory of Response Events," and **Theodore Kaouk**, for "The Lure of Mastery: Sovereign Fathers and Sovereign Friends in Hamlet and Michel de Montaigne's 'Of Friendship.'"

Seth Horton chaired a *Best of the West* panel at this year's AWP conference in Denver, which consisted of readings by Don Waters, Urban Waite, and Justin St. Germain. Horton's third book, *Best of the West 2010: New Stories from the Wide Side of the Missouri*, is now available for pre-order through the [University of Texas Press](#). It will be published this September.

Sara Schotland's article "Performing Identity: Text Speak in Gautam Malkani's *Londonstani*" appeared in the May edition of *Trickster*, an international multicultural review. This issue included an essay by Helene Cixious, as well as other scholars, on the future of language.

Shenandoah Sowash has been awarded a fellowship by the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, located near Sweet Briar College in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in rural Virginia. Shenandoah Sowash will be among the approximately 25 Fellows focusing on their own creative projects at this working retreat for visual artists, writers and composers.

Rhetoricians Take on the Twin Cities

Terp Nation will be descending like on Minneapolis *en masse* like a swarm of well-spoken, very persuasive locusts for the Rhetoric Society of America conference, May 27-31.

Jody Lawton is presenting a paper entitled "Virtue May Be Habit-Forming: Some Corollaries of the Speech-as-Civilizer Topos"; **Mark Hoffmann** is presenting "Defining the State: Argument from Definitional Essence in Randolph Bourne's 'The State'"; **Lisa Zimmerelli** is presenting "A Stereoscopic Theology: Frances Willard's *Woman in the Pulpit*";

Thomas Geary is presenting "Visual Rhetoric in a Wireless World: Seeking a Common Language"; **Maria Gigante** is presenting "The Visual Exordium: Re-Locating Frontispieces in Early Modern Sciences"; **Martin Camper** is presenting "The Emergence of the Sacred: The Construction of Place in Online Prayer Forums" and "Genre, Situation, and Typification: The Appropriation of Holocaust Tropes in Anti-Abortion Rhetoric";

Heather Brown is presenting "Personal Testimony and Collective Trauma: The Online Rhetoric(s) of the Post-Abortion Movement" and "Conflict, Diagnosis, and Critique: The Public Controversy of Post-Abortion Trauma"; and **Lindsay Dunne** is presenting "Discordant Discourse: The Online Rhetoric of Cancer Movements."

Professors **Jane Donawerth**, **Jeanne Fahnestock**, and **Vessela Valiavitcharska** will also be presenting, presiding, or otherwise participating.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The next edition of Bywords will be released in September. Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplished accomplishments by Monday, September 6th.

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

Coming soon! A new-look website for the English Department!

Stay tuned to www.english.umd.edu for more news all summer long