

BYWORDS

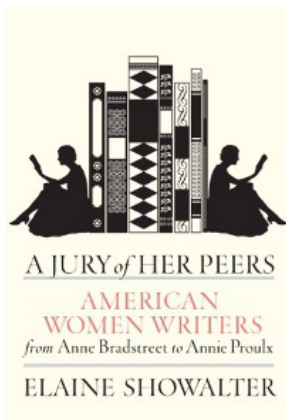
Department of English Newsletter

O Wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn's being
Thou from whose unseen presence the leaves dead
Are driven like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing

-- Percy Bysshe Shelley

www.english.umd.edu/bywords

HIGHLIGHTS



A keynote event caps off an exciting inaugural semester for the Center for Comparative and Literary Studies. The Transatlantic Poetics Lecture Series and Local Americanists welcome **Elaine Showalter** (professor emerita, Princeton University) for a talk, "Women Writers and American Literary History" on **Friday, December 4th at 4:00PM** in Ulrich Recital Hall, Tawes. Former President of the Modern Language Association and chair at Princeton University, Professor Showalter will discuss the process and problems of writing the first literary history of American women writers, and suggest how American literary history is transformed by the incorporation of women's writing over four centu-

ries. Her talk is based on her new widely acclaimed book, *A Jury of Her Peers: Celebrating American Women Writers from Anne Bradstreet to Annie Proulx* (Random House, 2009).

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

The **Seminar in Comparative Studies** welcomes Caroline Eades (Dept. of French) for a discussion on "Reception and Film." Friday, 11/20/09 at 3:00PM, 1102 Key Hall.

The **Mock Turtle Reading Series** reconvenes at The Wonderland Ballroom in Columbia Heights, D.C. for poetry and fiction readings by Maryland MFA students. Friday, 11/20/09 at 6:30PM. Click [here](#) for directions.

Writers Here and Now welcomes MFA alumnae and poets Kara Candito, Jehanne Dubrow, and Taije Silverman to read from their work. Wednesday, 12/2/09 at 7:00PM, Ulrich Recital Hall, Tawes. Please join us for a reception before the reading at 6:15 at the Jiménez-Porter Writers' House, ground floor, Dorchester Hall.

The **CLCS Book Launch Series** welcomes Joshua Weiner for talk and reception celebrating his new edited collection, *At the Barriers: On the Poetry of Thom Gunn*. Monday, 12/7/09 at 4:00PM. Location, TBD.

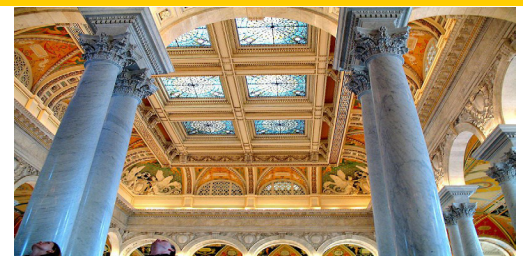
Renaissance Reckonings welcomes Dan Vitkus (Florida State University) for a talk, title TBA. Friday, 12/11/09 at 4:00PM. Location, TBD.

December Commencement will be held on Sunday, 12/20/09 at 4:00PM in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center Concert Hall. Hope to see you there!

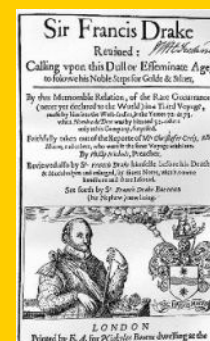
UPCOMING DEADLINES and DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

Reminder! Textbook orders for Winter and Spring 2010 courses are due **December 1st** to the University Book Center. Click on "faculty" and then "adoptions form." Please send a copy of your order to **Isabella Moulton** at imoulton@umd.edu. The students and the book stores will very much appreciate your prompt attention to this matter!

The editorial board of **Interpolations: A Journal of First Year Writing** is hard at work soliciting, collecting, and gearing up to read all of the submissions from our first-year writing students. Publication of the next edition of *Interpolations* should take place in early February. If you haven't encouraged your English 101 students to submit their papers, please do so!



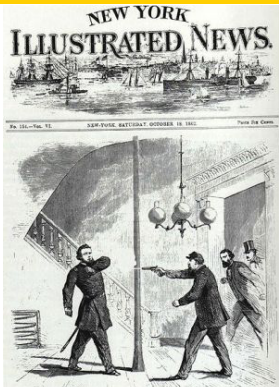
Attention Grad Students: Call For Papers!



“Chronicling America” Database Now Available for Research Use

“Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers,” sponsored jointly by the Library of Congress and the National Endowment of the Humanities is now available as an [open source database](#).

The database allows you to search and view newspaper pages from 1880-1922 (with additional back years and newspapers to be added in the future), and find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. The database has been added to Research Port under the History - US and Canada and the Literature - English - Literary Works/Primary Sources categories.

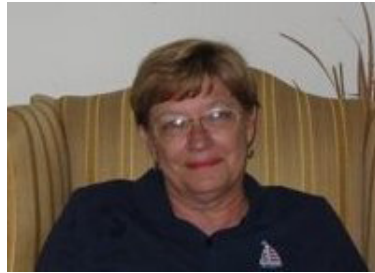


Ryan Wins Maxwell Award

Leigh Ryan, Director of the Writing Center, has won the 2009 Ron Maxwell Award for Distinguished Leadership in Promoting the Collaborative Learning Practices of Peer Tutors in Writing.

The award was announced by the Penn State Learning program at Pennsylvania State University, and it will be presented to Ryan at the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing (NCPTW), November 6-8, at Mount Holyoke College.

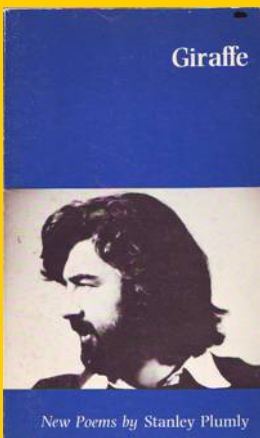
“The award recognizes a professional within the NCPTW organization for dedication to and leadership in collaborative learning in writing centers, for aiding students in together taking on more responsibility for their learning, and, thus, for promoting the work of peer tutors. Its presentation also denotes extraordinary service to the evolution of the conference organization,” according to the award letter.



The letter goes on to celebrate Leigh for her leadership in NCPTW, her authorship of the standard-setting Bedford Guide for Writing Tutors; her creation of innovative programs in collaborative learning; and her personal embodiment of the values of “collaborative, supportive, peer-centered” mentoring.

The award “testifies so eloquently to a career filled with the highest service to students,” says **Kent Cartwright**, Chair of the Department of English.

Plumlyfest Wrap-up: A Message from the Chair



As many of you know, the “**Celebration of Stanley Plumly and Poetry at the University of Maryland**,” held October 29-30, was a great success. From David Baker’s engaging address on Thursday; through the extraordinary panels about Keats, poetry, and teaching; to David Wyatt’s keynote address on Friday and Stanley’s magnificent reading, the celebration was marked by one high point after another. The crowd for Stanley’s reading was the largest that I have seen for such a departmental event. The focal point of the conference was Stanley’s accomplishments, but in a larger way the event was a celebration of the department, of poetry, and of the work that all of us do as teachers, scholars, and writers. It helped me to remember why I am in this profession.

For an undertaking so big, thanks are due to many members of the staff (such as Kevin, Isabella, Abby, and others) and of the faculty (such as Martha, David, and others), but very special thanks are due to Bob Levine and to Michael Collier. Bob as director of the Center and Michael as the representative of Creative Writing worked together on the project for months, devising its structure, determining who to invite for panels, and preparing brochures and publicity materials. Their extraordinary hard work and devotion have brought enormous credit to the department and launched the Center for Literary and Comparative Studies in a manner that reflects our highest hopes.

And, finally, a word of appreciation is due to Stanley – certainly, for his patience and good nature in subjecting himself to two days of adulation, but, mostly, for the labor of love that he brings to poetry, literature, and the academy.

-- Kent

If you missed out on Plumlyfest, you can now download many of the papers and both keynote lectures from the [conference website](#)...

FACULTY NEWS

Jonathan Auerbach's book *Dark Borders: Film Noir and American Citizenship* is forthcoming from Duke University Press. He is also co-editing *The Oxford Handbook on Propaganda*.

Liz Fixsen has been accepted into the Liberal Studies graduate program at Loyola University to pursue a master's degree (She teaches a 100-level course there, "Understanding Literature"). As part of the program, Liz is taking "American Film and Society, 1955-1975" and "The Electronic Revolution: McLuhan's Global Village and American Culture."

Verlyn Flieger's collected essays, *Green Suns and Faërie: Essays on Tolkien*, has been accepted for publication by Kent State University Press.

Adam Lloyd will be delivering a talk entitled, "Engaging Real World Issues: A Model for Teaching Required Undergraduated Business Writing Courses" at the Northeast Modern Language Association's 41st Annual Convention at McGill University, April 7-11. Adam's talk is part of the "Technical/Professional Writing for Undergraduates Roundtable."

Gerald Maa has translations forthcoming in an anthology brought forth through a partnership between the NEA and China. The anthology, to be published by Copper Canyon Press, will include translations of *Asian Bronze*, *A Poem Dedicated to the Final Night and the First Day*, and *A Poem Dedicated to the Dark Night*, all by the Chinese Modernist Haizi.

Greg Metcalf was one of three American artists asked to discuss the influence of African art on his work for a series of videos produced by the Phillips Collection in conjunction with its exhibition "Man Ray, African Art and the Modernist Lens." Short video edits will be online in December. Greg has also agreed to write a "scholarly but accessible" book for Praeger Press on changes in television narrative from Dennis Potter's "The Singing Detective" through long form television in the age of TiVo and DVD boxed sets, tentatively titled "Beyond the Boxed Set: Television's Storytelling Renaissance."

Howard Norman's novel *Devotion* has recently been published in German, Japanese, and Swedish editions. Howard isn't quite

sure, but the Norwegian edition changes the title to something like "The Woman Who Interacted With Swans," or, "The Woman Who Was Affectionate With Swans."

Michael Olmert's 1996 book, *Milton's Teeth and Ovid's Umbrella*, was the basis of a quiz for members of the Australian Skeptics society in June. The posted answers, on the [society's website](#), include actual responses as well as witty and sarcastic ones. The autumn issue of "Colonial Williamsburg" magazine, a journal of eighteenth-century studies, prints Michael's article on the architecture and social history of Laundries, often the largest buildings in the colonial backyard, which nearly always housed slaves in their attics. The whole illustrated article is available [here](#), along with a laundering slideshow.

Randy Ontiveros delivered a comment on "En-gendering US Diasporic Visions of Caribbean Migration" at the recent American Studies Association conference in DC.

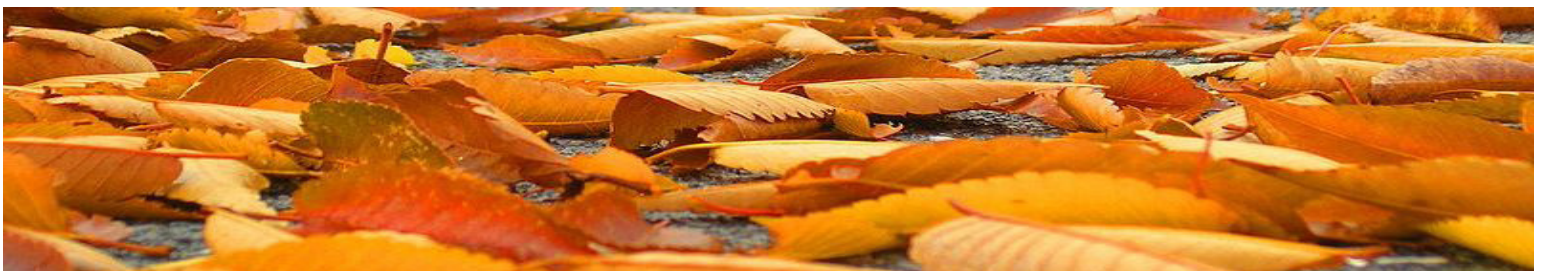
STUDENT NEWS

On October 8, **Heather Brown** presented a paper entitled "'I Clicked on the Link to See What Abortion Looks Like:' Trauma, Testimony and the World Wide Web" at the Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s) Conference at Michigan State University.

Drew Eisenhauer will defend his PhD dissertation on Thursday, November 19 at 11:00AM in Tawes 3250. His dissertation is directed by Prof. Jackson Bryer and is titled "'Something Sweetly Personal and Sweetly Social': Modernism, Metadrama and the Avant Garde in the Plays of the Provincetown Players."

Jeremy Metz is presenting a paper at the Yale Comparative Literature "Zoo" conference on December 4, titled "Gazing at ourselves across the animal divide: Levinas' parable of Bobby the Dog."

Sara Schotland delivered a paper on Charlotte Dacre's *Zofloya* at the South Central MLA in Baton Rouge on October 30. Sara's article "Justice for Undergraduates: Teaching Law and Literature in the Liberal Arts Classroom" was published in a pedagogy journal, *Teaching Currents* 2.1 (2009).



HISTORY of the ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Maryland English Department. Bywords will be celebrating our long legacy and the important role of the department in the university.

Following H.C. "Curley" Byrd as university president was a tough order. The charismatic Curley had been the football coach *and* an English instructor, and who couldn't love that combination of brawn and brains? But Wilson Elkins proved up to the task of succeeding Byrd. Elkins is remembered for his role in raising the academic profile of the university with dramatic improvement in academic rigor and admissions selectivity, but for English majors perhaps his most important achievement is just down the hill from Tawes.



Central to the transformation of the intellectual community on campus was the erection McKeldin Library in 1958 at a cost of \$2.5 million. Governor Theodore McKeldin (for whom the building is named) spoke at the dedication, saying the library "will always remains hospitable to any book that contains an idea," adding, "nothing is more important for a young man seeking wisdom than to avoid intellectual ignorance."

In their coverage of the dedication, the *Washington Post* celebrated the "modern gadgetry, such as high fidelity music-listening booths, microfilm newspaper files and a pushbutton conveyor system for delivering books to students." Smoking was also permitted throughout the building. Thankfully, since then the library has expanded its collection from 300,000 books to more than three million volumes, "modern gadgetry" continues to modernize, and the library now values the smell of books over Marlboros. But that conveyor belt sounds appealing.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The next edition of Bywords will be released on Wednesday, December 16. Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplished accomplishments by
Friday, December 11.

Please include dates, locations, and titles of papers/lectures/etc. in your news submissions.

Bywords e-mail: englweb@umd.edu

Visit www.english.umd.edu for more news updates and upcoming events!