



In the depth of winter,  
I finally learned that within me  
there lay an invincible summer.

- Albert Camus



## Poetic Aesthetic

The Gallery in the Art-Sociology Building is hosting an exhibit that blends visual art and poetry in really moving ways. Creative Writing faculty members and alumni worked on this project with their colleagues in the art department. The list of poets includes: Elizabeth Arnold, R. Dwayne Betts, Lucille Clifton, Michael Collier, Jehanne Dubrow, Michael Glaser, Joseph Harrison, Ethan Huang, Linda Pastan, Stanley Plumly, Dave Smith, Saul Sosnowski, Elizabeth Spires, and Joshua Weiner. Some of the art pieces literally move, while others just capture the fluidity of creation and the potentially dynamic interactions of art forms. The works range from powerfully inspiring, to painfully moving, to quaintly echoing madness. The opening piece of the exhibit was an installation by Audra Buck-Coleman that managed to eerily convey loss, while the lines of poetry by Elizabeth Spires were also tinged with hope. There were hard edged and brutally artistic poems. And smaller, softer poems as well. A huge film by Jefferson Pinder ran constantly at the back of the exhibit, featuring high school-aged girls reading poetry by Lucille Clifton. The way the girls faced the camera and spoke of Clifton's narrator's recollections and expectations of time was a perfect running soundtrack to the other works.



Our faculty members' works were moving and stunningly paired with corresponding art pieces. The whole exhibit really forces the viewer to question creative processes, and to explore levels of inspiration and how they might strike and evolve. The exhibit will run until March 3rd and is officially called "Poetic Aesthetic: An Exploration of Creativity in Poetry and Visual Art." Please check it out, while there is time!

## A Welcome for Michael Dirda

The Center for Literary and Comparative Studies hosted a reception on Wednesday, February 16, from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm to celebrate the spring semester and to welcome Michael Dirda, Petrou Reader in Residence and Visiting Professor, to the department.

Faculty members, graduate students, and alumni from this department and from other units on campus stopped by the second floor lobby of Tawes to chat with Dirda. Conversations overheard included lively discussions of the books that people are currently reading, a debate about the benefits of Kindle Readers over iPads, and a critique and a defense of the current Folger production of *The Comedy of Errors*. Many people expressed interest in Dirda's current course on early adventure novels, and there was even talk of a reading group so that people could shadow the syllabus. It was a most convivial afternoon! (-Karen Nelson)

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## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

### Queering the Archive, Archiving the

**Queer:** The archives of queer intimacies and subjectivities are everywhere and nowhere – in audio recordings, the chronicles of colonialism, the records of psychiatric hospitals and prisons, the ephemera collected by LGBT community history organizations. To queer the archive is to tease out those buried truths, but it is also to recognize the vexed nature of “truth” and to acknowledge that one’s own desires and fantasies shape and misshape what one sees in any collection of artifacts or records. In this fascinating series of lectures and conversations, scholars and producers of queer archives reflect on what they do, why they do it, and what is at stake in efforts to document queer identities, practices, and performances. Join us as we plumb the depths of a history that is no longer hidden but not yet fully in view. For more information, visit [www.lgbts.umd.edu](http://www.lgbts.umd.edu)

The upcoming “**Bloodwork**” conference explores how conceptions of the blood—one of the four bodily fluids known as humors in the early modern period—permeate discourses of human difference from 1500 to 1900. “Bloodwork” begins with the assumption that the metaphorical equation of blood with “race” as we understand it today is a distinctly modern, always shifting, and geo-culturally contingent formation. Hence, we believe a conversation among scholars from various periods and fields of inquiry will enhance our understanding of the cultural history of blood. Specifically, we ask how fluid transactions of the body have been used in different eras and different cultures to justify existing social arrangements. For contact and registration information, please visit: <http://www.terpconnect.umd.edu/~rwakeman/index.html>

### The Washington Area Modernist

**Symposium** will take place Saturday, March 5 in Tawes 1121 from 10:45 to 6:30. Our theme this year is “Modernism, Reading, and Interpretation.” Philip Weinstein of Swarthmore will be the keynote speaker; a number of outstanding scholars will be coming from Princeton, U of Virginia, George Mason, U Penn, Johns Hopkins, U of Richmond, George Washington U, American U, the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, U of Mary Washington, and the University of Warsaw. For more details, see the department’s website: <http://www.english.umd.edu/events/1886>

# ( NEWS )

## FACULTY NEWS

**Robin Earnest** and **Willie Schatz** will present a paper at the GWU Legal Writing Conference, Feb. 25-26, titled Teaching The Basics of Legal Writing Before Law School--A Collaborative Effort Between Law Schools and Supporting Undergraduate Programs. Their partial abstract reads: “Many books discuss teaching legal writing on the law school level. However, as of this writing, very few books discuss teaching the basics of legal writing to students outside of the law school curriculum. This gap should be addressed with pre-law school work. Further, any publication in this genre should be written collaboratively with law-school legal writing professors and organizations such as LWI so that the undergraduate instruction will strengthen students’ understanding of ‘legal writing’ and provide law school writing professors with more skilled students.”

Two of **Mark Forrester’s** 391H students last semester started a UMCP Amnesty International chapter as part of their class project and were featured in the campus newspaper. (The last chapter on campus disappeared in 2006.) According to The Diamondback, Mark’s students, Meshal Haroon and Julia Shu, junior government and politics majors, organized a two-day write-a-thon — where students could sign pre-written letters to government officials on behalf of victims of human rights abuse — as part of the celebration of International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10. The Diamondback said, “Even with the class wrapped up — and an A on the project — both students said they will continue working to make Amnesty International a success at the university in the future, possibly by coordinating with other activist groups both on and off the campus.” Mark explains that their main product was a brochure that the AI regional office can distribute to college chapters; it contains guidelines and recommendations to help provide smooth transitions from year to year and ensure that groups don’t disappear when one class graduates. For the full story, go to: <http://www.diamondbackonline.com/news/freedom-writers-1.1828627>

**Connie Inukai** spoke at the Society of Technical Communications’ event, Jan. 20, in Bethesda, titled, Tech Comm in Academia: A Panel of Local Tech Comm Teachers.

**Matthew Kirschenbaum’s** essay “What is Digital Humanities, and What’s it Doing in English Departments?” will appear in the forthcoming issue of the ADE Bulletin. Advance proofs are available on his Web site: [http://mkirschenbaum.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/kirschenbaum\\_ade150.pdf](http://mkirschenbaum.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/kirschenbaum_ade150.pdf)

**Joan Mooney** reviewed the Dalai Lama’s latest book for AARP Magazine’s website: <http://www.aarp.org/entertainment/books/info-12-2010/book-review-my-spiritual-journey.html>. Joan has reviewed books for The New York Times Book Review, The Washington Post and several other publications.

**Carla Peterson** has just had a book published by Yale University Press. The book is entitled *Black Gotham: A Family History of African Americans in Nineteenth-Century New York City*. She will be speaking about the book on Friday March 4 at 7pm, Politics & Prose, 5051 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC.

**Sangeeta Ray’s** short story titled “Third World ‘N’ All” was recently published in the Asian American Literary Review for Winter/Spring 2011 issue.

# (NEWS cont.)

## FACULTY NEWS cont.

**David Wyatt's** "Bishop in Love" appears this month in The Hopkins Review.

## STAFF NEWS

**Lindsay Bernal** won a 2010 prize from the Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Memorial fund for her poems "Blossom Road," "Broken Shoe," and "Postcard from Mazunte."

**Karen Nelson** published a book through University of Delaware Press entitled, "Masculinities, Childhood, Violence." It is an edition of collected essays from the 2006 Symposium, "Attending to Early Women-and Men."

Karen will also be presenting at Queen's University in Belfast, to the International Research Forum on Women on Monday, March 7. The paper is entitled "Women and War: Mapping Early Modern Conventions of Representation." While there, she will also have lunch with graduate students and speak with members of their steering committee about planning and implementing interdisciplinary programs.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Peter Grybauskus** recently had a paper accepted for publication in "Mythlore." The subject is an old English poem, entitled "The Battle of Maldon," and Tolkien's critique of it through his creative dialogue, "The Homecoming," which eventually helped give birth to the structure of "The Lord of the Rings."

**Michael Lukas** recently published a novel entitled *The Oracle of Stamboul*. It's a novel about a preternaturally intelligent little girl who becomes an adviser to the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. In the words of the good folks at HarperCollins, it is a "marvelously evocative, magical historical novel." The San Francisco Chronicle called it "a Turkish delight" and the nice people at Good Housekeeping said it is "a magical debut."

**Nazera Wright** was asked to give the annual Carter G. Woodson Lecture series at the University of Kentucky, where she is currently assistant professor of English. Her talk, later this week, will have the same title as her manuscript, *Girlhood in African American Literature*.

## STUDENT NEWS

In February, **Seth Horton** chaired a panel at the Association of Writers and Writing Program's (AWP) Annual Conference entitled, "Best of the West: New Stories from the Wide Side of the Missouri."

**Anna Bedford's** article "Reluctant Voyagers: Vonarburg's Postcolonial Posthuman Travelers" was accepted for publication by FemSpec, a peer-reviewed feminist journal of science fiction. Anna's article will appear in an upcoming issue with a foreword by the French-Canadian author Elisabeth Vonarburg. Her article examines how the journeys in science fiction and the ways in which they're told are predicated upon the embodiment of the central figure of the traveler, and, in particular, how that figure is transformed in a posthuman, postcolonial, eco/feminist context in the works of Elisabeth Vonarburg. Anna is a PhD candidate in Comparative Literature. Her advisor is Dr. Jane Donawerth.

This week, I went by the Poetic Aesthetic Exhibit (and then to see Tony Kushner). First, there was a line of poetry by Linda Pastan, paired with art work by Kris Chau. Chau's artwork was characterized by the too much and the too many. In this piece, Chau drew a bird with too many wings, or wings caught forever in great movement. And the line alongside it was "And doesn't the white page/seem unfinished/without the dark stain/of alphabets?" Was this the combined poet-artist musing on putting words to art, or vise versa? Or more thoughts on what it means to take on that much-ness of artistic meaning. Later I saw Tony Kushner, which left me wondering if art forms and larger ways of being in the world can ever be extricated from one another. Can we be artistic or poetic without being inherently inseparable from *that* something larger?

Thanks for reading, and next time you hear from me,  
it will be Spring.

*Catherine*

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

*The next edition of Bywords will be released March 22nd. Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplishments by March 15th.*

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