



BYWORDS

Department of English Newsletter

A wind has blown the rain away and
blown the sky away and all the leaves
away, and the trees stand. I think, I
too, have known autumn too long.

e. e. cummings

Science Argument & Rhetorical Media: A Rhetoric & Composition Symposium Honoring Jeanne Fahnstock



On March 9, 2012, the department will host a conference in honor of Jeanne Fahnstock. Jeanne will retire at the end of the 2011-2012 academic year after 30 years of service. The department has been truly honored to have her.

Jeanne has three published books: *Rhetorical Figures in Science* (Oxford University Press, 2003), *Rhetoric of Argument* (most recently by Random House in 2003), and *Rhetorical Style: The Uses of Language in Persuasion* (Oxford University Press, 2011).

The conference will be held from 9AM to 4PM in Tawes 2115 as a celebration of Jeanne's much valued work in the field of rhetoric. Details of the conference are forthcoming and the most up-to-date information can be found on the [department's website](#). Also, please feel free to contact Jane Donwerth for further information (donawert@umd.edu).

Race, Law, and American Literary Studies: An Interdisciplinary Conference

On March 29 and 30, 2012, Bob Levine and Edlie Wong will co-direct this fascinating sounding conference. "Race, Law, and American Literary Studies" has drawn presenters from across North America, including some from our own department. The conference will be comprised of the following five panels: *Which Law, Which Literature?*; *Law, Literature, and Race in a Re-united but not Re-constructed Nation* (which includes a presentation by PhD candidate Christy DeSanctis); *Agree to Disagree? Resolving the Logics of Law and Race* (including a presentation by PhD candidate Chris Brown); *The Law of Law-Breaking: The Cultural Left and the Cold War Racial State* (chaired by Mary Helen Washington); and a final roundtable. Welcome remarks will be given by Bob Levine.

Contact Bob Levine (rlevine@umd.edu) or check the [department's website](#) for more information. The talk will be held in rooms throughout Tawes and is free and open to the public.

www.english.umd.edu/bywords

Order Your Winter and Spring Semester Books!

It's time to order your Spring 2012 textbooks. Deadlines for The University Book Center and Maryland Book Exchange will soon pass, so please do this as soon as possible to ensure availability!

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 the department 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 at mrobling@md.bookex.com to let her know.

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

When you've ordered books, please be in contact with Isabella Mouton in 2119 TWS or at imoulton@umd.edu.

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," then on
"Faculty Adoptions Form"

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

News from The Center For Literary and Comparative Studies:

Renaissance Reckonings brought Graham Hammill, SUNY Buffalo, to campus on Friday, December 2 at 2:00 pm in 3132 Tawes Hall to present "The Spirit of Europe: Political Theology from Shakespeare to Spinoza."

The International Film Series presented *Tideland* (2005) on Friday, December 2, at 5:00 pm in 1100 Tawes. A young girl (Jodelle Ferland) lives in a terrifying and gruesome world. When her father (Jeff Bridges) takes her away to a rural farmhouse, she finds herself in a bizarre fantasy world where only her dolls' heads keep her company. When she meets a mentally damaged man and a tall ghost-like woman, the line between her imagination and reality quickly disappears. *Tideland* is a spine-chilling tale from the visionary mind of acclaimed director Terry Gilliam.

Writers Here and Now offered its Faculty and Alumni Reading, with Rod Jellema, Michael David Lukas and Alison Stine presenting their work on Wednesday, December 7, at 7:00 pm in Ulrich Recital Hall.

Michael Olmert directed his English 379 students in the final script-in-hand play reading for the semester on Wednesday, December 7, at 4:00 pm in Ulrich Recital Hall. The play they presented is *The Government Inspector* (1836) by Nikolai Gogol. Here's Michael's synopsis: "Moscow has sent an invigilator to a provincial Russian town. But who is he? Is he THAT guy?" No costumes. No scenery. No props. Just text. (And a group of charismatic undergraduates!)

The Department celebrates the recent publication of Gerard Passannante's monograph, *The Lucretian Renaissance: Philology and the Afterlife of Tradition* (Toronto, 2011) on Thursday, December 8, at 1:00 pm.

The Transatlantic Series hosts Meredith Martin, Princeton University, on Friday, December 9 at 4:00 pm.

The Alumni Book Group meets Thursday, December 15, 2011, at 6:30 pm in Tawes 2115, and is reading the work of alumnus George Pelicanos, *THE CUT* (2011). Start reading! Join the conversation!

[Please check the Department Calendar for more news.](#)

[Further information is available on the Center's webpage.](#)

(NEWS)

FACULTY NEWS

Maud Casey's short essay about Petah Coyne's sculpture exhibit, "Everything Rises Must Converge," at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, appeared in Issue 7 of *Canteen Magazine*. An even shorter story, "On the Tye," appeared in 100 Word Story (<http://www.100wordstory.org/>).

Maud has also won a semester-long Creative and Performing Arts Awards for 2012-13. She will be completing her new novel, *The Man Who Walked Away*, about a Frenchman with a rare mental illness who forms a friendship with his doctor. She will also be starting a short story collection based on her research into nineteenth-century clinical treatment of mentally ill women.

Linda Coleman gave an all-day seminar on "The Origins of English Words" at the Smithsonian in the Resident Associates Program on Nov. 19.

Theresa Coletti presented at the kick-off event for Harvard University's Medieval Studies 2011-12 lecture series on September 19. Her topic was "Reading the Bible in South Africa through the Prism of Medieval Drama." She delivered the same talk at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver in October. She is currently directing a Folger Institute Seminar on "Periodization and Its Discontents: Medieval and Early Modern Pathways in Literature."

Mark Fitzgerald has been invited to read from his book of poems, *By Way of Dust and Rain* (Cinnamon Press, 2010), at several events next year. On Sunday, January 15 at 4 p.m. he will read at the Bowery Poetry Club in New York City. On January 19 at 7:30 p.m. he will read at the Takoma Park Community Center as part of the Third Thursday Series. He has also been invited to read at the IOTA Poetry Series with Tarfia Faizullah on Sunday, February 12 at 6 p.m. at the IOTA Club and Café in Arlington, Virginia. For more information about these events, feel free to contact Mark at mfitzge5@umd.edu.

Danuta Hinc has made several appearances recently to discuss her novel, *To Kill the Other*, and the writing process. She appeared at the East Columbia Library in Columbia, MD on Nov. 1, at the Writing Center in Bethesda on Nov. 8, and at Cyclops Books in Baltimore on Nov. 16.

John Mancini recently joined the board of directors of the John T. Hubbard Care Fund, a family nonprofit aimed at helping those with brain injuries.

(NEWS cont.)

FACULTY NEWS cont.

Howard Norman has won semester-long Creative and Performing Arts Awards for 2012-13. Howard will be spending time in California working on a conversationally structured non-fiction work intriguingly titled, *A Stanza by Robert Hass: A Memoir*.

Michael Olmert gave the opening lecture in the fall series of architectural talks at the Homewood House Museum on the Johns Hopkins campus in Baltimore on October 10. He spoke on the nature and history of 18th-century privy outbuildings, with a bow toward the meticulous restoration of Homewood's 1803 necessary house, with its posh compass-headed windows, two-centered door, and plastered-and-paneled interior.

Michael has also written on the history and literary heft of the 18th-century orangery, an elite outbuilding type that allowed its posh owners to raise tropical plants in temperate climes in the Autumn number of *Colonial Williamsburg* magazine. It features the orangeries at Mount Vernon and at Mount Clare (in Baltimore), and at both Wye House and Eyre Hall on the eastern shore, all of which are related.

Michael's script-in-hand play reading series will be funded by the Pepsi Fund for Campus Enhancement.

Laura Rosenthal gave a talk at Northwestern University entitled "Tell Me How You Know Your Students Are Learning: Assessment in the Humanities" and a talk at American University called "Obscene Work in Eighteenth-Century Fiction." Her essay, "Upon the Town: Staging London in the Restoration and Eighteenth Century" recently appeared in *The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of London*, edited by Lawrence Manley.

Caroline Wilkins traveled to Los Angeles in October to appear on the game show Jeopardy. Her debut appearance aired on Nov. 21.

STUDENT NEWS

Jeremy Metz has been selected in the Graduate Student Research Grant Competition of the Latin American Studies Center at the University of Maryland to travel to Haiti next summer to interview authors of fiction and poetry who have written about the 2010 earthquake; his work there will focus on testing certain tenets of contemporary trauma theory.

FM Stringer's poem "The Mayfair" is forthcoming in the next issue of *Emprise Review*.

Amanda Visconti (along with **Kari Kraus** and the other members of the UMD iSchool ARG Research Team) presented a Digital Dialogue talk at the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH) on November 29. The talk covered the team's experience researching and creating alternate reality games (ARGs) as part of an NSF grant exploring their design and educational use, and it had something for anyone interested in transmedia narratives, counterfactuals, games, or ways to intersect literary studies with other disciplines. The talk took place in the MITH Conference Room (B0131 McKeldin Library) from 12:30-1:45pm. Digital Dialogues is MITH's signature events program, held almost every Tuesday during the regular school year.

STAFF NEWS

Karen Nelson's edited book, *Conflict, Concord: Proceedings of the 2009 Attending to Early Modern Women Symposium*, was accepted by the University of Delaware Press. It's the seventh volume in the Attending to Early Modern Women series and the first she's edited. She co-edited the sixth volume with Amy E. Leonard, and that was released earlier this year.

ALUMNI NEWS

Joelle Biele's play *These Fine Mornings* will be funded by the Pepsi Fund for Campus Enhancement.

(NEWS cont.)

ALUMNI NEWS cont.



Rebecca Coleman published a new novel in September 2011. *The Kingdom of Childhood* was a semifinalist in the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Competition, and was recommended by *School Library Journal* and named “Book of the Week” by Examiner.com. *Library Journal* rated *The Kingdom* one of the best books of 2011, calling it a “disturbing yet enthralling read.” And *Publisher’s Weekly* called it.”

RECENT EVENTS



Congratulations to **Sangeeta Ray** on a fabulous job with her conference, “Rethinking World Literatures.”

According to Department Chair Kent Cartwright, “the intellectual engagement and sense of exigency were sky

high.” The event was complete with four sessions, two round table discussions, and an evening reception. Scholars visited from across the country, but some of our own esteemed faculty participated as well. Amongst them were Ralph Bauer, Peter Mallios, Zita Nunes, Jerry Passannante, and Sangeeta Ray, herself.



Michael Dirda, 2010-2011 Petrou Reader in Residence and Pulitzer Prize-winning book critic for the Washington Post, returned for a visit on November 9th, 2011. Dirda read from his new book, *On Conan Doyle: Or, The Whole Art of Storytelling* (*Writers on Writers*) ([available on Amazon](#)). In spring 2012 Dirda will teach ENGL 379D: “The Modern Adventure Novel: 1912-1959.”

MFA NEWS

The MFA Program in Creative Writing has announced the nominees for the 2011-2012 Intro Journals Project, a literary competition for the discovery and publication of new work by students currently enrolled in creative writing programs around the country.

Nominees in poetry are Timothy DeMay for “Confessions of Reading Robinson Jeffers During a Storm,” Eric Kozlik for “After Trapping,” and Caroline Randall for “Crude Genetics.” The nominee in fiction is Emily Lyons for “Elijah” and the nonfiction nominee is Daniel Knowlton for “Shit (excerpts from a memoir-in-progress).” Follow up in late spring 2012 to hear about the winners.

Happy (belated) November to all! There has been some famous Terp-alum activity this Fall. You’ll see much of it as you read through this issue. But on the slightly (debatably) less literary side, have you seen “The Muppets”? Obviously, that’s relevant because Jim Henson is an alum and the University showed its appreciation with some well-deserved hype. (The Stamp showed an advanced screening of the movie earlier this month!) And, while the buzz is fresh, consider a visit to Hornbake Library to check out the University’s Henson Collection. We happen to house The Jim Henson Works and the Children’s Television Workshop (part of PBS). Get your Muppets while they’re fresh and have a joyful start to the holiday season!

Thank you, as always,
Catherine

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*The next edition of Bywords will be released December 22. Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplishments by *December 20*.*

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

Bywords e-mail: englweb@umd.edu

*Stay tuned to
www.english.umd.edu
for more news!*