

# BYWORDS

Department of English Newsletter



There is no season when such pleasant and sunny spots may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant an effect on the feelings, as now in October.

- Nathaniel Hawthorne



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

## “Rethinking World Literature/Other World Literatures” Symposium, November 3-4, 2011

This symposium promises to help participants redefine and rethink the ways they research, teach, discuss, and conceptualize categories surrounding “world literature.” “World” is often a pure abstraction, an empty container with no specific referent and content designated from on high by ambitious anthologies and “great books” courses. The conference panelists will consider not only what kind of problem world literature presents, but also other models for thinking of world literature—models that don’t take the world itself for granted and that take other worlds seriously. Can we imagine and practice other world literatures that might disrupt—rather than aid and abet—normative globalization?

“Rethinking World Literature/Other World Literatures” seeks to explore some of the following questions: What is new in this “New World” literature; or, what is its (new) world? And what happened to the “Third World” in world literature? What gets left out of World Literature, and what gets expropriated or marginalized by virtue of being included? What other worlds—above, below, or aside—does “World Literature” obscure? What other world-systems—besides the center/periphery models—could be at work in the making and masking of world literature? In what ways is World Literature a reaction to postcolonial studies or an alibi for a domesticated, depoliticized cosmopolitanism conducted in European languages and within Euro-American networks of power? What does world literature look like from other locations? Are there alternative world-views or views of the world that don’t produce or reproduce the flat-earth literary maps of the world republic of letters, cosmopolitan comparativism, or normative transnationalism? Is the term “World Literature” synonymous with “comparative literary study” or literary commerce in the era of globalization? What happens to the theories and practices of World Literature when we factor in the effects of things like illiteracy and intellectual property laws, environmental and social crises, natural resource extraction, debt loads and dumping, commodity and capital accumulation, informal economic networks and labor pools, military and humanitarian domination, carbon (and other energy) economies?

Sangeeta Ray, Director of Graduate Studies, has assembled an amazing group of speakers and the two-day program of talks and round-tables promises to be ground-breaking in its efforts to reconceptualize research and teach surrounding world literatures. The event is free and open to the public; people are welcome to drop in for individual sessions.

Complete details are available on [the symposium’s website](#).

**Please submit your syllabi  
using our online system!**

**Faculty, Lecturers, and TAs teaching  
ENGL and/or CMLT courses at the  
200-level or above:**

**If you are teaching, please submit a copy  
of your syllabus for FALL 2011 as soon as  
possible. We would like you to submit  
your syllabus using the following webpage:**

[http://www.english.umd.edu/  
administration/faculty-staff/syllabi](http://www.english.umd.edu/administration/faculty-staff/syllabi)

**This will allow everyone access who needs  
this information (including Isabella). We  
use these copies to answer inquiries from  
current students who need to finalize  
their class schedules, and former students  
needing transfer credits. Also, your syllabi  
on file have been a big help to new T.A.s  
when they’re in the process of developing  
their own syllabi.**

**Also, if you’re faculty or a lecturer through  
the MEO, please submit office hours for  
FALL 2011 on the above section of the  
department website.**

**Your cooperation is very much  
appreciated.  
Isabella**

**Notes on book ordering:**

**The University Book Center:**

<http://www.umcp.bkstore.com>

click on “Faculty,” then 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:

Film Screening: "An Evening with Artemisia Gentileschi" (Thursday, November 3, 2011, 6:30 pm, Ulrich Recital Hall)

Symposium: "Rethinking World Literature/ Other World Literatures" (November 3-4, 2011)

Work in Progress: Jan Alber, "What are Unnatural Narratives?" (Monday, November 7, 1:00 pm, 3132 Tawes)

Book Launch: Vincent Carretta, Phillis Wheatley: Biography of Genius in Bondage (Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 2:00 pm, 2115 Tawes Hall)

Petrou Lecture: Michael Dirda "On Conan Doyle" (Wednesday, November 9, 2011, 2 pm, Ulrich Recital Hall)

Rehearsed Play Reading: Christopher Hampton, "The Talking Cure," directed by Michael Olmert and performed by the students of English 379 (Wednesday, November 9, 2011, 4:00 pm, Ulrich Recital Hall)

Speaking of Books: Jonathan Auerbach (Thursday, November 9, 2011, 4:30 pm, Special Events Room, McKeldin Library)

Local Americanists: Robyn Warhol, "Reality Effects: The Office, Real Housewives, and the Televisual Structure of Address" (Friday, November 11, 2011, 3:30 pm, 1106 Tawes Hall)

Medieval and Early Modern Studies: Jane Donawerth, "Bianca: the Other African in Othello" (Friday, November 14, 12:30 pm, 2120 Francis Scott Key Hall)

Eighteenth Century Reading Group: Paul Goring, "Charles Macklin and Eighteenth-Century Theatre Culture" (Tuesday, November 15, 2011, 12:30 pm, 2115 Tawes Hall)

Work in Progress: Ralph Bauer, "A New World of Secrets: The Hermeneutics of Discovery in the Early Americas" (Wednesday, November 16, 1:00 pm, 2115 Tawes)

Alumni Book Group: Thoreau (Thursday, November 17, 2011, 6:30 pm, 2115 Tawes Hall)

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

[Also, further information is available on the Center's webpage.](#)

# ( NEWS )

## FACULTY NEWS

**Dr. Jonathan Auerbach** will discuss his newest book, *Dark Borders: Film Noir and American Citizenship* (Duke UP, 2011) as part of the UM Libraries' series, "Speaking of Books... Conversations with Campus Authors." The talk will be held in McKeldin Library's Special Events Room. Professor Auerbach will sign copies of his book, which will be available for purchase, and light refreshments will be served.

**Ann Bracken** presented a workshop on using journaling techniques for problem solving at the Toronto Mind-camp Creativity Conference. Ann's presentation was based on the paper she coauthored with business professors Alexi Mateev, from City University of New York, and Rick Milter, of Johns Hopkins University, Carey School of Business. Additionally, Ann has two poems, "Dreams in my portfolio - redux" and "Postcards," in the Autumn 2011 edition of *The Gunpowder Review*.

**Robin Earnest** and **Leigh Ryan**, along with Pre-Law Advisor Gregory Shaffer, organized the second annual panel discussion on the delicate subject of the "personal statement," was held on September 20th. The panel featured admissions officers from area law schools, all of whom agreed that a well-penned personal statement makes a difference, especially for borderline applicants. In addition to the requirement that the statement is grammatically and orthographically correct, the panelists agreed that the writing should persuade the officer "that the student has a sincere interest in the study of law." A recording of this discussion will appear on the PWP website later this month.

**Verlyn Fliieger's** novel, *The Inn at Corbies' Caww*, has been published by Kitsune Books. It's available on [Amazon](#).

**Zahara Heckscher's** Writing Staycation at the Writers Center in Bethesda has been moved to November 7 through 11. Email her for more information at [zaharah@umd.edu](mailto:zaharah@umd.edu).

**Danuta Hinc** was a presenting author at the Baltimore Book Festival in September. Danuta appeared on a panel with two other novelists and discussed her book, *To Kill the Other*.

**Matthew Kirschenbaum** is co-principal investigator on a new grant just awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, "BitCurator: Tools for Digital Forensics Methods and Workflows in Real-World Collecting Institutions." This two-year project, which is being done in conjunction with MITH and UNC Chapel Hill, furthers his interest in digital forensics and 21st century archives, a research agenda begun in his book, *Mechanisms*, and continued in a publication on Digital Forensics and Born-Digital Content in Cultural Heritage Collections, which was also recently recognized with a special commendation from the Society of American Archivists. English department doctoral student Porter Olsen will work as a GA on the new project.

# (NEWS cont.)

## FACULTY NEWS cont.

**John Mancini** recently published his first feature, “The Bridge’s Impending Last Waltz,” which examines the break-up of Baltimore band The Bridge and the struggles independent bands face in an over-saturated market. The essay ran on [Jambands.com](#) during September.

Also, John Mancini recently published [his review of Simon Reynolds’ book, \*Retromania: Pop Culture’s Addiction to its Own Past\*](#), on the popular music site Jambands, as well as [a review of Trey Anastasio Band’s October 8th performance](#) in Baltimore.

**William S. Peterson** and Sylvia Holton Peterson gave an illustrated talk about their new book, *The Kelmscott Chaucer: A Census* (Oak Knoll Press), at the Library of Congress on Thursday, September 29, 2011, at 4 p.m. It was held in the Lessing J. Rosenwald Room (LJ205), the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, 2nd Floor, Jefferson Building, and was co-sponsored by the American Printing History Association (Chesapeake Chapter) and the William Morris Society in the United States. Further information is available at the Rare Book and Special Collections Division: 202-707-2025. See also the [Kelmscott Chaucer census blog](#).

**Sangeeta Ray’s** article “Towards a Planetary Reading of Postcolonial and American Imaginative Eco-Graphies” was published in *A Companion to Comparative Literature*, edited by Ali Behdad and Dominic Thomas. *The Companion* is published by Wiley-Blackwell.

Also, Sangeeta Ray’s essay, “Memory, Identity, Patriarchy: : Projecting a Past in the Memoirs of Sara Suleri and Michael Ondaatje,” originally published in the journal *Modern Fiction Studies* in 1993, was selected for republication in the anthology *Postcolonial Literary Studies: The First 30 Years*, edited by Robert P. Marzec and published by the Johns Hopkins University press.

**Martha Nell Smith**, with Ellen Louise Hart (UC Santa Cruz), gave a Joseph S. Schick Lecture, “Who Was and Who Is Emily Dickinson, and What Are Her Texts?” at Indiana State University. <http://www.indstate.edu/news/isutoday.php?articleid=5658>

Also, on September 29th, **Martha Nell Smith** delivered “Digital Forensics and Texting Emily Dickinson,” the 2011 Walter Harding Lecture, State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo. <http://www.geneseo.edu/english/walter-harding-lecture>

## FACULTY NEWS cont.

**Ingrid Satelmajer** will deliver a paper on “The King James Bible and Digital Culture” to the Washington Area Group for Print Culture Studies (Friday, November 18, at the Library of Congress--3:30-5:00).

**Orrin Wang’s** new book, *Romantic Sobriety: Sensation, Revolution, Commodification, History*, was published by Johns Hopkins University Press in September 2011.

**David Wyatt’s** essay, “The Forsyte Saga,” appeared in the summer issue of *The Hopkins Review*.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Tim Hackman** published an article, “A Blues Song for Fighters: The Legend of Sonny Liston,” in *Aethlon: The Journal of Sport Literature* 27:2 (Spring/Summer 2010), 1-22. The article is based on his MA (2006) Writing Project, directed by Barry Lee Pearson and Jonathan Auerbach. The article is [available online via UM’s Digital Repository](#).

**Koritha Mitchell** (PhD, 2005) has published her first book, *Living with Lynching* (<http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/32xhk5kq9780252036491.html>). She is giving presentations based on this research at Lehigh University on Wednesday, November 9 and at Columbia University on Friday, December 2 (<http://www.iraas.com/node/238>). Feel free to tell your friends in the area and/or contact her for details ([mitchell.717@osu.edu](mailto:mitchell.717@osu.edu)). She presented here in Tawes on October 19, 2011. Koritha has also earned tenure and promotion to associate professor at Ohio State University.

## STAFF NEWS

**Karen Nelson** will attend the annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference at Fort Worth, Texas, in part to deliver a paper, “Spenser’s Shepherdes Calendar: Structuring a Pastoral Facade,” and also to attend the executive board meetings for the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. **Kim Coles** and **Jane Donawerth** are among those from the department who will also attend. Kim is speaking on one of the Spenser Roundtables (Spenser and Philosophy) with a presentation “Soule is Forme: Spenser and the Book of Temperance.” After co-founding *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal* in 2004, Jane served as editor from 2004 through June 2011 and remains on the journal’s board.

# (NEWS cont.)

## STAFF NEWS cont.

**Karen Nelson** has been elected as a “Discipline Representative” for the Renaissance Society of America. Discipline representatives are members of the Editorial Advisory Board of Renaissance Quarterly and of the RSA Council, and also organize sessions for the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, which will be held in Washington, DC, in 2012 and in San Diego, CA, in 2013.

## STUDENT NEWS

**Mark Hoffman’s** chapter, “A Timeless Attack: Essence and Definition arguments in Leo Tolstoy’s *The Kingdom of God is Within You*,” was published in a collection entitled *The Promise of Reason: Studies in the New Rhetoric*. The edition is edited by John T. Gage and published by Southern Illinois University Press. He also co-authored an article for the *Johns Hopkins SAIS Review*, “Snowbirds and Water Coolers: How Aging Populations Can Drive Economic Growth.” In addition, since starting a new job the past winter, he has written articles for *The Fiscal Times*, CNN.com, and The Council on Foreign Relations.

**Seth Horton’s** fourth edited book, *Best of the West 2011: New Stories from the Wide Side of the Missouri*, has just been published by the University of Texas Press. It includes his introduction to the rhizomatic west, as well as work by Rick Bass, T.C. Boyle, Ron Carlson, Ana Castillo, Dagoberto Gilb, Yiyun Li, Sam Shepard, and others.

**Nathan Kelber** finished his prospectus and presented a session entitled “Building a Better Learning Management System” at Eastern Michigan University on October 15. He’s also accepted an invitation to adjudicate the 2012 Digital Humanities Summer Institute colloquium. Follow his recent work at <http://nkelber.com> or on twitter: @nkelber.

**Joshua Lavender’s** poem “The Guest” was selected as a finalist for the Able Muse Write Prize. The contest was judged by poet Rachel Hadas. The poem will appear in the Winter 2011 issue of Able Muse.

## STUDENT NEWS cont.

**Amanda Visconti** is currently participating in a seminar on “Editing and Its Futures” at the Folger Shakespeare Library’s Folger Institute in Washington, D.C. She received a conference scholarship to attend the Digital Humanities Summer Institute, a week of intensive coursework and lectures on topics combining humanities research and computing.

Amanda is also co-organizing a conference on the humanities and gaming, THATCamp Games ([www.thatcampgames.org](http://www.thatcampgames.org)), which is sponsored by the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH). Applications are open on the conference website through 10/31/2011; the conference will take place in Tawes, January 20-22nd 2012.

When this issue of *Bywords* hits your email, we will be creeping ever closer to Halloween Weekend. And, of course, there are festivity-options-aplenty. But we Marylanders have the special treasure of our own resident dark storyteller. Edgar Allan Poe, while born in Massachusetts, did much of his writing at 203 Amity Street, in Baltimore. You can, of course, visit the house any time. But there is also the quasi-literary event, Poe’s Frightful Halloween. (The advertisement suggests that we “Party with Poe!” from 6pm to 9pm on October 30th.) There will be readings and dramatic renditions of some of Poe’s most harrowing works. The event will be held at Westminster Hall in Baltimore and all of the proceeds go to the Poe House and Museum, which has (sadly) had its budget slashed this year. (Of course, you can always drop by the Alumni Book Club’s meeting at 6:30 on Thursday, October 27 for an apropos discussion of Poe’s only complete novel, *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*.)

Whatever you choose to do, please have a safe, if spooky, weekend. Thanks, as always.

Catherine

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

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

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

*Stay tuned to [www.english.umd.edu](http://www.english.umd.edu) for more news!*

