

“Immortal amaranth, a flower which once
In paradise, fast by the tree of life,
Began to bloom...”

- John Milton



The Department Celebrates the Life of Marshall Grossman



Professor Grossman had been a member of the departmental faculty since 1989. He was a renowned and award-winning scholar on Milton, and had published and taught widely on the major figures and major issues of Renaissance literature. He was known to his colleagues as vigorous, brilliant, and intensely committed to intellectual and scholarly life. He was greatly admired by students, and especially beloved by the many graduate students who completed doctoral dissertations under his superb guidance. David Lee Miller, Distinguished Professor of English at the University of South Carolina, and a close, long-time friend and colleague of Professor Grossman, wrote this:

“If you knew him only by his work, then you knew a lot. He was a brilliant critic. But those of us who knew him personally saw how the wit and brilliant mind were always in play. Marshall could talk to you about anything—politics, history, jazz, the more abstruse reaches of theory. He could make you laugh hard and think harder. His table talk at the Folger Library lives in legend. To know him well enough was to see an underlying sweetness to his disposition that expressed itself mostly by indirection. Beneath his sometimes sardonic persona, he was an incredibly kind man.”

Professor Grossman received his doctorate in 1977 from New York University. After teaching at Fordham University, he was appointed to the faculty at the University of Maryland as an associate professor. He earned promotion to full professor in 1996. Professor Grossman authored such publications as *Authors to Themselves: Milton and the Revelation of History* (Cambridge University Press, 1987); *The Story of All Things: Writing the Self in English Renaissance Narrative Poetry* (Duke University Press, 1998); *The Seventeenth-Century Literature Handbook* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011); edited essay collections including *Aemilia Lanyer: Gender, Genre, and the Canon* (University Press of Kentucky, 1998) and *Reading Renaissance Ethics* (Routledge, 2007); and contributed over thirty articles to essay collections and journals, along with numerous reviews. Professor Grossman was honored with various prizes and awards, including the National Endowment for the Humanities Long-term Fellowship at the Folger Shakespeare Library in 2009-10; the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for College Teachers and Independent Scholars, 1988-1989; the Fordham University Faculty Fellowship, 1988-1989; the Graduate Research Board Semester Award, 1994; the James Holly Hanford Award (Milton Society of America Book of the Year Award) for *Authors to Themselves*, 1987; and Outstanding Teacher Award, Celebrating Teachers Program, 1993. He was an elected member of The Milton Seminar, 1989-present, and an executive board member of the Milton Society, 1989-92. He had also served on the boards of many journals and scholarly organizations including the Folger Institute and PMLA, the journal of the Modern Language Association of America.

Faculty, staff, and students in the English department feel a profound sense of loss, one shared by scholars and colleagues across the nation and around the world. The department will hold a memorial service for Professor Grossman on Tuesday, April 26, from 4 to 5 pm at the gallery of the David Driskell Center in the Cole Student Activities Building.

(-Contributed by Karen Nelson and Kent Cartwright)

www.english.umd.edu/bywords

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FROM THE CENTER FOR LITERARY AND COMPARATIVE STUDIES

Tuesday, April 26, 4:00 pm, Driskell Center, Cole Student Activities Building
Memorial Service for Marshall Grossman
The event will be a celebration of Marshall's life in the form of comments by colleagues, friends, and students. Light refreshments will be available.

Wednesday, April 27, 12:00 pm, 2115 Tawes
Eighteenth-Century Reading Group: Claudia Kairoff and Jennifer Keith
"Strategies of Manuscript, Print, and Digital: Presenting the Works of Anne Finch, Countess of Winchelsea (1661-1720)" A light lunch will be served.

Thursday, April 28, 3:30 pm, 3250 Tawes
Medieval & Early Modern Seminar: Rebecca Lush: "Proud Dames and Indian Kings: Early Modern English and Colonial Representations of Native Americans in Aphra Behn and Mary Rowlandson."

Thursday, April 28, 4:00 pm, 1134 Tawes
Paper Shell Review Launch Party
Pick up a free copy of The Paper Shell Review's inaugural issue at our launch party! Refreshments will be served.

Friday, April 29, 9:00 am-8:00 pm
DC Queer Studies Symposium
For complete details and program information, visit <http://lgbs.umd.edu/>

Friday, April 29, 9:00 am, Multipurpose Room, St. Mary's Hall (Language House)
Symposium: Cinema and History
For access to online papers, contact Brian Real, breal@umd.edu.

Friday, April 29, 4:30 pm, 1107 Tawes Hall
LGBT Studies Lecture: Regina Kunzel
In Treatment: The Queer Archive of Mid-20th-Century Psychiatry
For more information contact: Marilee Lindeman (lgbs@umd.edu)

Saturday, April 30, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
MARYLAND DAY: Explore Our World!

Please check out the department's calendar for more information on upcoming events:
<http://www.english.umd.edu/news-events/calendar>

(NEWS)

Society for Textual Scholarship Conference

The Maryland English department journeyed seemingly en masse up the Susquehanna River to the Society for Textual Scholarship conference March 16-18 at Penn State University. This biennial international, interdisciplinary conference has traditionally seen heavy representation from

Maryland faculty and graduate students, and this year was no exception. Matthew Kirschenbaum served as program chair, instituting new session formats and a dedicated digital humanities track. He also participated in a roundtable on "What is 21st Century Textual Scholarship?" organized by Neil Fraistat, as did Kari Kraus who, in addition, presented a paper on "Game Change: Archives and Significant Properties." Martha Nell Smith spoke on a panel on "Editing Digital Feminisms," which also included a contribution in absentia from Marilee Lindemann. Doctoral student Amanda Visconti read a paper entitled "Primarily with scholars in mind': Scholars, Readers, and the Digital Text Audience," and MITH's Travis Brown gave a co-authored paper on "Labor Saving Machines and the Tasks of Textual Studies." Doug Reside, late of MITH and Maryland, gave a paper and organized a workshop. Doctoral student Lisa Rhody attended the conference, as did Jason Rhody (Ph.D. '10), who ran a workshop on behalf of the National Endowment for the Humanities where he is now a senior program officer. Edward Whitley (Ph.D. '04), now an Associate Professor at Lehigh, chaired a panel on "The Spatial Text." Beth Loizeaux serves as Treasurer for the organization and was present to chair a session; Fraistat, Kirschenbaum, and Loizeaux all also serve on the STS's Executive Committee. The next STS meeting will be in Austin in May 2012.



Regional Writing Centers Collaborative Event: A Day of Tutoring Conversations

On April 2nd, the UMD Writing Center hosted nearly 100 high school and college tutors from Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania to talk about issues surrounding tutoring writing. We teamed up high school tutors with college tutors to facilitate 18 discussion sessions on a variety of tutoring topics, such as working with second language learners and dealing with uncomfortable subjects. The first floor of Tawes was full of wonderful, productive conversations and laughter all day. The UMD English department helped make the event a success by providing breakfast for the participants. The Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association sponsored the event as well. Due to the success of this year's event, there are already plans for a repeat at George Mason next year.

FACULTY NEWS



Jonathan Auerbach recently published a new book, *Dark Borders: Film Noir and American Citizenship* (Duke University Press). The book connects anxieties about citizenship and national belonging in midcentury America to the sense of alienation conveyed by American film noir. *Dark Borders* provides in-depth interpretations of more than a dozen of these dark crime

thrillers, considering them in relation to U.S. national security measures enacted from the mid-1930s to the mid-1950s. For more information, and to order the book directly from Duke University Press, please visit <http://www.dukeupress.edu/Catalog/ViewProduct.php?productid=47287>

Adele Berlin just edited and published the second edition of *The Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion*.

Lindsay Dunne recently presented a paper, "Surveying Our Relations: A Non/Traditional Dialogue" at the Conference on College Composition, in Atlanta last week (April 8). The paper was about how her work in a "nontraditional" composition setting - the Pathways to Success at Georgetown University - informs her teaching of "traditional" four-year college students at Maryland.

Pamela Gerhardt started a blog, at the recommendation of agents and publishers, to publicize and create a buzz about her narrative nonfiction book, "Girl With Green Hair in Landscape." She is looking for an agent/publisher. The book highlights the aftermath of one artistic man's debilitating stroke and the triumphs and mishaps as he and his five adult children struggle—often humorously—to manage his life and find meaning. In the same vein as Tamara Jenkins' movie, *The Savages*, this... (cont.)

...multi-dimensional story examines the battles and comforts of contemporary family bonds, sifting through dysfunction for both drama and wry comedy. In comparison to most books of this genre on the market, her story is less about the drudgery and struggles of finding the right mix of medicines and/or at-home care givers and more about the emotional ramifications of caring for the sick under the weight of sometimes-flawed attachments. Here is the blog address: <http://pamelagerhardt.blogspot.com/>

Sheila Jelen participated in a faculty seminar on Hebrew and Yiddish Modernism at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Also, in June she will deliver two papers at the annual conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew here at Maryland on the following subjects: "The Israeli Post-Vernacular: David Grossman's *Sholem Aleichem*" and "Teaching Israeli Literature in a Jewish Survey: The Paradox of Translation."

Matt Kirschenbaum has just been announced as a winner of the Guggenheim Fellowship for 2011. Matt's project is a monograph tentatively entitled "Track Changes: Authorship, Archives, and Literary Culture after Word Processing." Here is how he describes it: "As the title suggests, I will be exploring the impact of digital media on literary production and reception broadly construed, from new technologies of authorship on computers and laptops to literary reception and reputation online (in blogs and other social media), and finally the challenges associated with preserving the digital legacies of today's writers for future generations."

Adam Lloyd will be attending the Rhetoric Society of America's (RSA) 4th Biennial Summer Institute in Boulder, Colorado this June. He was selected to participate in a seminar led by Anne Frances Wysocki and Dennis A. Lynch entitled "Composing Multimodal Rhetorics."

Kavita Mudan just published an article, "A Queen in Jest: Queenship and Historical Subversion in Shakespeare's 3 Henry VI and Richard III," appearing in a new book from Palgrave Macmillan.

Michael Olmert spoke at the "Meet the Cast" night at the Shakespeare Theatre. His topic was Harold Pinter, his career, and, particularly, his play "Old Times" (1971). It was to celebrate the first day of the play's rehearsal. The audience included the director, Michael Kahn, his three-handed cast, and many of the theatre's supporters.

(NEWS cont.)

FACULTY NEWS cont.

Bill Peterson (who taught in the English Department for many years) and his wife Sylvia have completed a book entitled *The Kelmscott Chaucer: A Census* that will be published in April by Oak Knoll Press. William Morris's beautifully printed and illustrated edition of Chaucer, produced at his Kelmscott Press in 1896, is probably the most celebrated private press book in the world, and the Petersons have attempted to trace as many as possible of the surviving copies that are now scattered around the globe. (In fact, they have found approximately two-thirds of the pressrun.) For each copy they have provided a description of its physical characteristics, such as the binding and marks of ownership, and, when possible, have reconstructed its provenance. They also supply lists of unlocated copies, records of copies sold between 1896 and the present, and information about the bookbinders who have rebound copies of the Chaucer. Bill is the author of several books about Morris and the Kelmscott Press; Sylvia is the co-author of *Chaucer's Fame in England: STC Chauceriana 1475-1640* (MLA, 2004).

Leigh Ryan, along with Laura Schubert (James Madison University), presented a paper on "Experiential Learning: Engaging Writing Fellows and Undergraduate Teaching Assistants in the Classroom" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Atlanta, GA, April 6-9.

Sara Schotland's article "Breaking out of the Rooster Coop: Violent Crime in Aravind Adiga's *White Tiger* and Richard Wright's *Native Son*" appears in the current issue of *Comparative Literature Studies*. Sara's article is one of the first publications to examine Adiga's novel, which won the 2008 Booker Prize. Sara also recently spoke at the annual ASECS convention in Vancouver on the topic of the Construction of the Jew in Georgian theater. She also gave a paper "From Laura Wingfield to Joy Hulga Hopewell: Disability and the Single Woman in American Literature" at the annual NEMLA convention in New Brunswick."

Joshua Weiner received the first ALSCW residency fellowship at the Vermont Studio Center. He has also been selected to participate in the faculty seminar at the Summer Institute in Literary Studies at the National Humanities Center; the seminar, "Decisions and Revisions: The Art of T.S. Eliot's Poetry" will be led by Christopher Ricks. Josh's poetry and prose has appeared recently or is forthcoming in *Gulf Coast*, *Ploughshares*, *Southwest Review*, *Literary Imaginations*, and on *Slate.com*. His essay on race & imagination, a formal response to Claudia Rankine's AWP presentation in February, can be found at <http://www.claudiarankine.com/>.

Katherine E. Young's paper, "Mary Anning's Monster: Science, Spectacle, and the Plesiosaur," was selected for presentation at the 2011 Northeast Victorian Studies Association conference held in College Park in mid-April. In other news, Young's poetry manuscript, *Day of the Border Guards*, was recently named a semifinalist for the Crab Orchard, De Novo, and Phillip Levine prizes.

STUDENT NEWS

Michelle Boswell will be presenting a paper titled "The Poetical Mathematics and Mathematical Poetics of James Clerk Maxwell" at the Literature and Mathematics in the Long Nineteenth Century Conference at the University of Glasgow, Scotland.

Seth Horton has two stories, "A Terrible Kind of Thing" and "Nightcap," slated to appear in the spring 2011 issue of *The Bellingham Review*.

Theodore Kaouk presented "Crafting the State: Homo Faber and the Antipolitical in *Coriolanus*," a chapter from his dissertation, *Arendt and Shakespeare: Re-thinking the Political*, at the 2011 Northeastern MLA conference that was held in New Brunswick, NJ on April 7-10. Another chapter, "Sovereign Fathers and Sovereign Friends in *Hamlet* and Michel de Montaigne's 'Of Friendship,'" was published this month as a book chapter in *Friendship in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Age: Explorations of a Fundamental Ethical Discourse*.

Nathan Kelber presented papers on analog computer forensics, virtual phenomenology, and early modern drama. In April, he attended Great Lakes Thatcamp at Michigan State University where he presented new ideas in game research and took technical courses in Omeka and Wordpress. He was also present at UMD's Theorizing the Web conference and presented papers on analog computer forensics, virtual phenomenology, and early modern drama. In April, he attended Great Lakes Thatcamp at Michigan State University where he presented new ideas in game research and took technical courses in Omeka and Wordpress. He was also present for UMD's Theorizing the Web conference. In May, he'll be at *Bloodwork: The Politics of the Body*. His abstract for "The Disintegration of the Persistence of Cultural Memory" was accepted for Digital Humanities 2011 at Stanford. For news on his scholarship and teaching, check online at <http://nkelber.com>.

Mary Lynn Reed's short story "The Game I Loved" has been selected for publication in the *Pisgah Review Fiction 5*, a compilation of the best fiction published in the journal's first five volumes. The story was originally published in the Summer 2009 issue of *Pisgah Review*.

STUDENT NEWS cont.

Amanda Visconti will be presenting as part of the “Reconsidering John Dos Passos” panel at the American Literature Association conference in Boston on May 28th.

Rob Wakeman presented “Ben Jonson in Lubberland: Slaughterhouse Ethics and Bartholomew Fair” at George Washington University’s “Animal, Vegetable, Mineral” conference on March 10. He will be presenting a paper titled “Between Market and Church: Economics of Solace in the Chester Shepherds’ Play” at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, England on July 11.

The School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and the Department of English Announce New Assistant Professors!

Dr. Luka Arsenjuk will be joining the School as assistant professor. Dr. Arsenjuk received his B.A. in Slovenia, and completed his PhD at Duke University in 2010 under the direction of Frederic Jameson. The title of his dissertation is “Political Cinema: The Historicity of an Encounter.” With a number of articles to his credit already, he is a welcome addition to the School faculty. Dr. Arsenjuk plans to spend this summer working in the Russian archives conducting research on Eisenstein.

Dr. Oliver Gaycken will join the English as an assistant professor and as member of the Comparative Literature program. Dr. Gaycken received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 2005. He is currently an assistant professor of English at Temple University and has been a Visiting Scholar at the Max Planck Institute. His book, *Devices of Curiosity: Early Cinema and Popular Science* is forthcoming from Oxford University Press. Many of you will remember his excellent job talk that started with time-lapse photography in science and extended to evolution and the film *Adaptation*.

These two appointments will enable the School and English to take the next steps in launching a film major in the College of Arts and Humanities. This is the first time that the School and the Department have conducted searches with a joint committee composed of faculty from both programs. We are delighted with the results, and we owe considerable gratitude to the committee for their substantial, time-consuming, excellent work in bringing the search to a successful conclusion. For those efforts, we extend our public thanks to the committee: Saverio Giovacchini (History), chair; Elizabeth Papazian (SLLC); Eric Zakim (SLLC); Jonathan Auerbach (English); and Zita Nunes (English).

(Sent by Carol Mossman (Dir. SLLC) and Kent Cartwright (Chair))

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Queering the Archive, Archiving the Queer: The archives of queer intimacies and subjectivities are everywhere and nowhere. To queer those archives 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

The Bloodwork Conference will explore how conceptions of the blood 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. Visit: <http://www.bloodworkconference.com/>

Litfest is being hosted in Ulrich Recital Hall on April 27, 7:00 pm. The Jimenez-Porter Writer’s House be awarding the winners of their annual literary prize. The winners for fiction are: Laura Pavlo, Shira Levenson, and Emily Zido. And the poetry winners are: Lyons George, Brendan Edward Kennedy, Ned Prutzer.

Thank you for reading this wildly full edition of *Bywords*.
What a great testament to our department’s big doings.

Catherine

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*The next edition of **Bywords** will be released May 23rd. Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplishments by May 19th.*

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

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