



Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.  
-George Eliot



## Highlights: Martha Nell Smith Delivers Distinguished Scholar-Teacher Lecture.

Thursday, September 30th 2010, the department was aflutter with activity. The celebration was in honor of Professor Martha Nell Smith, as she delivered her Distinguished Scholar-Teacher lecture, entitled "The Humanities Are Not A Luxury." The lecture was a reflection on what teaching, research, and writing in the humanities means for higher education, democracy, and our collective future. Throughout her lecture, Professor Smith was gracious and seemed jazzed to be addressing such an enthusiastic crowd. She was warm, funny, and above all, impossibly smart. Smith made profound historical connections between the humanities and their perceptions over time, musing upon the generative and integral nature of the humanities in academia.



Smith iterated the vital nature of humanities studies for our university, our collective histories, and our society to a packed audience in Ulrich Recital Hall (Tawes). Over 200 people filled the seats, crowded the aisles, and shared the perimeter of the stage with Smith. After the lecture concluded with rousing applause, a hungry audience climbed the stairs to a fresh, stunningly colorful banquet prepared by our own Isabella Moulton. The event lingered in more ways than one. Attendees were both satiated and inspired to leave Tawes with a renewed sense of literary,

scholarly, and creative purpose. Thank you and congratulations to Professor Martha Nell Smith!

## Leigh Ryan Wins President's Distinguished Service Award



The English Department's Leigh Ryan has won the President's Distinguished Service Award. This is amongst our University's most prestigious annual awards, recognizing "exceptional performance, leadership, and service." The award is a true testament to Ryan's commitment to the department, and to the University as a whole. She approaches her job and the University community with "indefatigable goodwill,"

according to Kent Cartwright; and Leigh says she is "happy to pull into the parking lot" every morning. After numerous awards, a book in its fifth edition, and many conferences under her belt, Leigh is still "stunned and a little overwhelmed" by this amazing recognition of her involvement in Maryland's literary community, Leigh will accept the President's Distinguished Service Award at the Faculty and Staff Convocation on October 12, at 3 p.m. in the Memorial Chapel.

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

### Order Your Fall Semester Books!

It's time to order your Spring 2011 textbooks. Deadlines for The University Book Center and Maryland Book Exchange are both October 15, 2010.

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 we 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](mailto:mrobling@md.bookex.com) to let her know.

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

When you've ordered books, please be in contact with Isabella Moulton in 2106 or at [imoulton@umd.edu](mailto: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," than on "Faculty Adoptions Form"

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

## EVENTS:

### Center for Literary and Comparative Studies Announces Fall Conference

For more information, contact **Bob Levine** or **Karen Nelson** at [clcs@umd.edu](mailto:clcs@umd.edu).

November 4, 4:30 pm, Ulrich Recital Hall, Louis Menand, Professor of English at Harvard and a regular contributor to the New Yorker magazine, gives the next lecture in "Be Worldwise," the series sponsored by the Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. His talk is entitled "The Future of Disciplinarity: The Case of Literature," and serves as the keynote address for the "Reading Comparatively Conference" which runs November 4 and 5.

The "Reading Comparatively" program is online at <http://www.english.umd.edu/academics/clcs/conferences/readingcomparatively> and promises to be a fabulous event--the department is very well represented with panels and round tables, as well as Zita Nunes' plenary talk, "The Scene of Reading," with Erik Zakim, Professor of Hebrew, from on Friday, November 5, at 4:30 in Ulrich Recital Hall.

The department is also hosting its First Annual Alumni Luncheon on Saturday, December 4, 2010, at noon in 2115 Tawes Hall. Howard Norman, a best-selling novelist and National Book Award finalist, will comment on the writer's life, and Martha Nell Smith, an internationally renowned Emily Dickinson scholar, will discuss the remarkable upsurge of interest in Dickinson's poetry in recent years. Information and registration materials are available at: <http://www.english.umd.edu/events/1928>

There seems to be a steady stream of works in progress--sessions, lectures, and film series--something for everyone! Those are listed at the Center's website:

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

*More articles on recent department activities are available on our [web site](#)! If you have an idea for an article, please e-mail [englweb@umd.edu](mailto:englweb@umd.edu)*

# (NEWS)

## FACULTY NEWS

**Elizabeth Bearden** recently published an article in *The Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies*, "Sidney's 'mungrell tragedy-comedie' and Anglo-Spanish Exchange in the New Arcadia." *Anglo-Spanish Relations: Historical and Literary Perspectives on the Empires*. Ed. Barbara Fuchs and Brian Lockey. It was an invited submission for a special issue of *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies (JEMCS)* 10.1 (spring 2010): 29-51.

Professor Bearden also just got back from a conference at Notre Dame, where she gave a talk. "Housing Disability: Albinos, 'enanos,' 'contrechos y concorbatos' in Mexicaand European Courts." Nanovic Institute, Notre Dame, September 2010.

**Rebecca Borden, Peter Mallios, Brian Richardson, and Jennie Wellman** all delivered papers at the 36th Annual Conference of the Joseph Conrad Society, U.K. at the University of Versailles-St. Quentin and in Paris on September 14-17, 2010. Borden delivered the paper "Conversation Revisited: A Comparative Reading of *Heart of Darkness* and 'The Tale.'" Mallios spoke on his new book, *Our Conrad: Constituting American Modernity*. Richardson, in one of several papers recently given in Europe, presented "The Trope of the Book of the Jungle: Colonial and Postcolonial Intertextuality." Wellman presented the paper "Orality and Outcasts: Conrad and the Imperial Narrator."

**Maud Casey's** story, "A Series of Photographs Against a White Curtain" was part of *The American Scholar's Fiction Week* (<http://www.theamericanscholar.org/category/fiction-week/>) and she has a short essay in the current issue of *A Public Space*. Her essay, "A Life in Books," originally published in the anthology *Muses, Mentors, and Monsters*, was listed as a notable essay in *Best American Essays 2010*.

**Mark Fitzgerald's** *By Way of Dust and Rain*, a collection of poems, was published in May by Cinnamon Press. He launched it at a reading in London this summer and more recently on Capitol Hill at Riverby Books. [http://www.engl-pw.umd.edu/AboutPWP/Faculty\\_Gate\\_Way\\_Pages/Fitzgerald.shtml](http://www.engl-pw.umd.edu/AboutPWP/Faculty_Gate_Way_Pages/Fitzgerald.shtml)

**Verlyn Flieger** transcribed and edited J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Story of Kullervo" and *Essays on Kalevala* for Volume VII – 2010 of *Tolkien Studies*. Their Annual Scholarly Review presents the growing body of critical commentary and scholarship on both J.R.R. Tolkien's voluminous fiction and his academic work in literary and linguistic fields. The founding editors are Douglas A. Anderson (*The Annotated Hobbit*), Michael D.C. Drout (*Beowulf and the Critics*), and Verlyn Flieger (*Splintered Light: Logos and Language in Tolkien's World*).

**Matthew Kirschenbaum** will speak by invitation at the "Why Books?" Symposium hosted by the Radcliffe Institute in October. The title of his talk is "The .txtual Condition." More information here: [http://www.radcliffe.edu/events/whybooks\\_conference.aspx](http://www.radcliffe.edu/events/whybooks_conference.aspx) on Re-Imaging Liberal Education in New York on October 1, 2010.

# (NEWS cont.)

## FACULTY NEWS cont.

A trifecta of news items from the Library of Congress's Preserving Virtual Worlds project (PVW), for which **Matthew Kirschenbaum** and **Kari Kraus** have served as co-principal investigators along with researchers at the University of Illinois, Stanford, and RIT. PVW has just been shortlisted as one of five finalists for the prestigious 2010 Digital Preservation Award, sponsored by the international Digital Preservation Coalition and the Institute for Conservation; you can find the press release here: <http://www.dpconline.org/newsroom/latest-news/638-2010-digital-preservation-award-shortlists-press-release>.

The project has also just released its final report, an open access publication of some 200 pages detailing two years worth of findings on such topics as emulation, virtualization, migration, archival description, collections policy, hardware stemmatics, Rosetta computing, and disk image forensics. You can find the report here: <https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/handle/2142/17097>. Kirschenbaum and Kraus and the rest of the research team will continue their work for the another two years with a major second round of funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a \$785,000 award just announced.

**Bob Levine** recently published an essay on "African American Literary Nationalism" in Gene Jarrett's *A Companion to African American Literature* (Blackwell). Levine's coedited *A Companion to American Literary Studies* will be published by Blackwell in 2011. He is presenting a paper on Brockden Brown and Edward Hale at the Huntington Library's "Weird America" conference later this month.

**Peter Mallios's** new book, *Our Conrad: Constituting American Modernity*, is now out from Stanford University Press.

**Randy Ontiveros's** essay "No Golden Age: Television News and the Chicano Civil Rights Movement" will appear in the upcoming December issue of the journal *American Quarterly*.

**Laura Rosenthal** was an invited participant at the Teagle Foundation Conference on Re-Imaging Liberal Education in New York on October 1, 2010.

**Jason Rudy** recently co-edited (with Tanya Agathocleous) a special issue for the journal *Victorian Literature and Culture* on the topic "Victorian Cosmopolitanisms" (Fall 2010): <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=VLC&volumeId=38&issueId=02&iid=7870752>

**Sara Schotland** presented a paper, "Talking Bird/Gentle Heart: Female Homosocial Bonding in the Squire's Tale," as part of an animal studies methodology seminar at the biennial congress of the New Chaucer Society in Siena Italy in July. Sara will present a paper at the March 2011 ASECS conference in Vancouver on the construction of the Jew in Sheridan's *Duenna*. She will also present a paper as part of a round table discussion at NEMLA in April 2011. Her topic is "From Laura Wingfield to Joy-Hulga Hopewell: Stigmatizing the Disabled Single Woman."

**Ingrid Satelmajer** recently had short fiction pieces published in *Chicago Quarterly Review*\*, *Bellingham Review*\*, *New Delta Review*\*, *Bateau*\*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*\*, *Meridian*\*, and *Southeast Review*\*. Also, one of her earlier stories from *CutBank*\* ("How to Be a Disciple") was shortlisted for the *2010 Best American Nonrequired Reading*\* (listed in back as "distinguished contribution").

**David Wyatt's** new book, *Secret Histories: Reading Twentieth Century American Literature*, is scheduled to come out in October of this year.

## STUDENT NEWS

**Uchechi Okereke-Beshel** will present her paper "Mapping Other(Worldly) Routes: Migration and Transformation in Amos Tutuola's *The Palm-Wine Drinkard* and Ben Okri's *The Famished Road*" at the annual African Studies Association meeting held in San Francisco on November 18-21. The ASA theme this year is African Diasporas and Diasporas in Africa.

**Seth Horton's** third book, *Best of the West 2010: New Stories from the Wide Side of the Missouri*, has been published by the University of Texas Press. It includes stories by Sherman Alexie, Rick Bass, Ron Carlson, Julia Glass, and William Kittredge. You can view the table of contents, read the editor's note, and even buy yourself a copy at <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/tho10p.html>.

**Nathan Kelber** presented a paper at Yale on October 1 called "The Classical and Christian Ethics of Suicide in Shakespeare and Montaigne."

## STAFF NEWS

**Jennifer Ashlock** presented "Navigating Students through the Invisible Curriculum" at the 15th Annual Undergraduate Studies Advising Conference.

# (NEWS cont.)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

From October 18th to 21st, the University will be celebrating Libraries' Open Access Week. On Thursday, Oct. 21, 2-3:30pm in McKeldin's Special Events Room, there will be a presentation by Professor Michael Carroll, American University, Washington College of Law, who will discuss the growing open access movement, why access to information is so important, and what grad students and faculty can do to promote open access to their research. There will also be 2 sessions on Author Rights (description below) on Monday, Oct. 18, 10-11am and Wednesday, Oct. 20, 3-4pm, both in McKeldin 7121. Info on both events is available at: <http://www.lib.umd.edu/CLMD/openaccessweek.html>

## PROFESSIONAL WRITING EVENTS

On September 14th approximately 150 students packed into Ulrich Theater to get tips for writing a persuasive personal statement directly from their target audience—area law school admissions officers. A collaborative effort, the panel discussion was organized by Professional Writing Program Legal Writing instructor Robin Earnest, J.D., LL.M. and featured admissions officers from area law schools, along with Pre-Law Advisor Gregory Shaffer, J.D., Writing Center Director Leigh Ryan, Ph.D., and PWP Legal Writing instructor Willie Schatz, J.D.

Given the thousands of applications submitted each year, students must make their personal statements stand out from the pack. Panelists emphasized the importance of writing a thematically interesting, grammatically flawless statement tailored to a particular law school. They advised students to investigate the school—through the press, its website, its alumni—so they can discuss how they might fit in with the school's community and contribute to its goals. Personal statements should reveal applicants' potential, their character and personality. Bottom line, a statement "should start strong and end strong," as the Georgetown panelist affirmed.

Attendees appreciated the advice and said that the discussion reduced the anxiety and mystery of statement writing.

## An Apropos Look at the Curriculum Transformation Project

On October 6, 1979, Rebecca Williams wrote this headline in the Diamondback: "Professors to Incorporate Feminist Views." These few words referred to a brand new University Program, the *Curriculum Transformation Project*. In some ways, the Diamondback article was mild, but that subtlety also underscored a truly progressive initiative. A phrase like "the issue" (meaning feminism) and the goal of "ensur[ing] educational equality for women" speak to something we might consider too meager or simplistic, at least on some surface level. But they also tell us something of the time period and the construction of an institutional language of feminism. According to then-President, William Kirwan, the University administration and humanities departments planned to "succeed by success," and relied on the "contagious" nature of scholarly "climate[s]." And Betty Schmitz, who later authored *Creating Multicultural Classrooms: An Experience-derived Faculty Development Program*, said that she felt "optimistic about the program's success because the campus administration support[ed] it." These two quotes are quite fitting, in light of the awards addressed on the first page of this issue. Not only do our humanities studies really rely on momentum and contagion, but our department also thrives on campus support. That support for our faculty and students (in all literary fields) is inspiring and truly "transformative." Feminist approaches are alive and well here (as is the Curriculum Transformation Project, now run by Women's Studies), and the importance of tracing the many paths of the human condition still thankfully remains at the heart of our University's objectives.

Happy Autumn!

And thank you for reading this academic year's first edition of *Bywords*. (And my first edition ever!) And thank you to all who contributed. I hope this finds you well, and blazing into your semester.

Thank you. Until next time,  
*Catherine*

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*The next edition of Bywords will be released in September. Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplished accomplishments by November 10.*

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

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