



# BYWORDS

Department of English Newsletter

Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paying hell with them as usual.

-- Mark Twain

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

Take this moment to fill up your day planner for Spring 2010. Events abound in Tawes Hall this semester! Some major events on the horizon:



**“Nomenclature,”** a graduate student conference sponsored by the Department of English and organized by GEO will be held March 5 and 6; Garrett Stewart (University of Iowa) will deliver this year’s **Petrou Lecture** on April 6; **“Rereading Poets Reading,”** a conference sponsored and organized by the Center for Literary and Comparative Studies, is coming April 15 and 16; **“New Worlds: Cross-Cultural Exchange East and West,”** a Medieval-Renaissance graduate student conference

cosponsored by the Department of English and George Washington University’s Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute, will be held April 17; The Center and MITH welcome Ray Siemens (University of Victoria) for a two-day **Seminar on Electronic Reading** April 26-27. Check out the department calendar for a full listing of department events this semester.

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

There will be a **Graduate Studies Forum** on Tuesday, 2/2/10 at 2:00PM to discuss program changes and changes to fellowship funding. Location TBD.

ARHU will sponsor a talk by humanities advocate **Robert Connor** titled “Outcomes Assessment and the Humanities.” Tuesday, 2/2/10 at 3:30PM in Tawes 1107.

Graduate Studies will host the **Second Annual Give-A-Little, Get-A-Little Lunch/Food Drive** on Friday, 2/12/10 from 12:00 to 2:00PM. Bring a non-perishable food donation or a few bucks to contribute and we will provide you with lunch.

**Critical Theory Colloquium** will have its first meeting of the semester on Friday, 2/12/10 at 3:00PM. Location TBD.

The **LGBT Studies Lecture Series** kicks off the semester with a talk by Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé (Fordham University) titled “Queer Latino Testimonio: Writing the Self and Community.” Tuesday, 2/16/10 at 5:00PM in Tawes 1101.

The **Center for Teaching Excellence** will host a discussion on “Time Management for the Teaching Academic” on Wednesday, 2/17/10 at 12:30PM. Location TBD.

## UPCOMING DEADLINES and DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

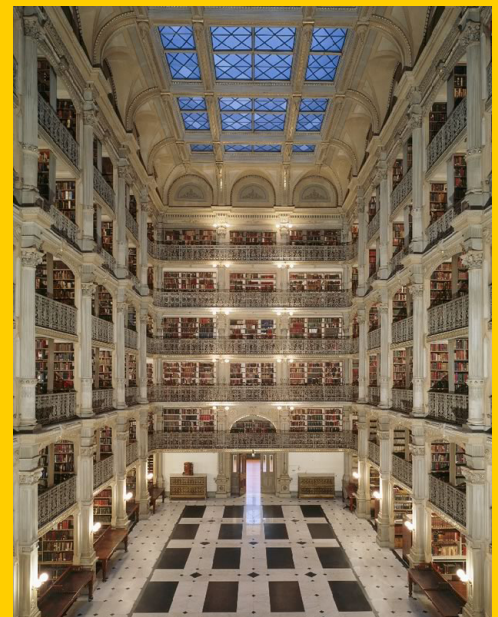
**Reminder:** All Faculty, Lecturers, and TAs teaching 200 level courses must submit a copy of your **Spring 2010 syllabi**.

We use these copies to answer inquiries from current students who need to finalize their class schedules, and former students needing transfer credits. Your syllabi on file has been a big help to new TAs when they’re in the process of developing their own syllabi. Please help us by submitting your syllabus to Isabella Moulton at [imoulton@umd.edu](mailto:imoulton@umd.edu), and to [english@umd.edu](mailto:english@umd.edu) for our computer database.

**Save the date!**

Department Faculty Assembly will discuss the undergraduate program: Wednesday, February 10, 9:30AM

## NAME THAT LIBRARY!



Opened in 1878, this 300,000 volume library stands in the shadow of the first monument dedicated to George Washington. Answer on page 4.

## Smith Joins Ranks of Distinguished Teacher-Scholars

Martha Nell Smith has been named one of five Distinguished Teacher-Scholars at the University of Maryland for 2010-2011. The other selectees are from physics, biology, business, and music.



Senior Academic Vice President and University Provost Nariman Farvardin cited Smith's innovative approaches to scholarship and teaching as "models of

what a professor at a fine research university should be."

Farvardin writes, "The Distinguished Scholar-Teacher Program honors members of our faculty who have demonstrated outstanding scholarly achievement along with equally outstanding accomplishments as teachers. This program recognizes faculty members who have led the way in scholarship and teaching and who have brought passion for learning to their colleagues and students."

Since the inception of the Distinguished Scholar-Teacher program in 1978, nine professors from English have been honored with the award: Martha Nell Smith (2010), Robert Levine (2007), Jackson Bryer (2004), Linda Kauffman (2000), David Wyatt (1998), Jane Donawerth (1995), Susan Lanser (1992), Susan Handelman (1989), and Samuel Schoenbaum (1987).

## MFA Students Launch Sakura Review

A team of students from the English Department's MFA Program in Creative Writing published the first issue of *Sakura Review* in December. Here's the description from the Review's website:

"*Sakura Review* is a newly conceived literary publication situated in the District of Columbia and run by graduate students in the MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Maryland. We publish poetry and prose and are particularly interested in – though not limited to – work that in some way satisfies or reflects our own preoccupation with a city embodied in location temporary; the new surrounded by collections and artifacts; what is documented alongside what is ultimately forgotten.



In addition to publishing the most striking and exciting new material that we can get our hands on, *Sakura Review* is also an endeavor of design. In accordance with a strong aesthetic perspective, we aim to construct a physical item of interest and creativity that incites a response equivalent to the work it contains. Moreover, we see it as our obligation to surprise, entertain, and perplex (if possible) in any manner that we see fit."

The editorial staff consists of **David Green** (Editor), **Natalie Corbin** (Managing Editor), **Jen Dempsey** (Poetry Editor), **Tom Earles** (Prose Editor), and **Joel Selby** (Art and Layout Director).

To order a copy of *Sakura Review* (\$10.00), click [here](#).

## Rudy Sets Sail on NEH Fellowship Later This Year

**Jason Rudy** has been awarded a 2010-2011 Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The fellowship will provide Dr. Rudy with release time to pursue his new book-length project, "British Poetry and National Identity en route: 1824-1868." The project analyzes nineteenth-century British poetry in a global context, from poems printed on ships sailing to Australia to poetry written in letters and journals by British citizens traveling in India, Chile, and Canada.



"This alternative archive of British poetry composed from abroad reshapes our understanding of poetry written during this period and, more important, suggests how poetry reflects upon and influences the construction of national identity both at home and in the world at large," says Dr. Rudy.

Rudy began research for this project while teaching his study abroad class in Sydney, ENGL 379D Australian Literature and Culture: Aboriginal to Contemporary. He will be using his fellowship year to look at archives in Cape Town and Kolkata, among other places.

"Winning an NEH fellowship is a significant achievement for any faculty member, of course, and it is especially impressive (and unusual) for an assistant professor to win this prestigious award," says Department Chair Kent Cartwright.

*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)*

## FACULTY NEWS

**Maud Casey's** essay, "The Secret History: The Power of Imagined Figures in Historical Fiction," was published in the online edition of *Literary Imagination* and will appear in the journal's print edition in February.

At MLA **Jane Donawerth, Adele Seeff,** and Diane Wolfthal (Rice University), coeditors of *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal* received Honorable Mention for Best New Journal from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals.

**Marshall Grossman** gave a "Fellows' Presentation" entitled, "Special Revelation, the Law and the Mediation of Reason in *Paradise Regained*, to which is added *Samson Agonistes*," at the Folger Shakespeare Library on Friday, January 15.

HoughtonMifflinHarcourt has chosen **Howard Norman's** new novel, "*What Is Left the Daughter*," to be published in July 2010, to represent them at Winter Institute in California, an annual meeting of independent booksellers from across the country and England. Howard's last two novels have just been published in German, Urdu, and Swedish. Howard will be at the Amsterdam International Literary Festival in April.

**Amy Scott-Douglass** published "Shades of Shakespeare: Colorblind Casting and Interracial Couples in *Macbeth* in *Manhattan, Grey's Anatomy, and Prison Macbeth*" in *Weyward Macbeth: Intersections of Race and Performance* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009).

**David Wyatt's** "September 11 and Postmodern Memory" appears in the Winter 2009 issue of *Arizona Quarterly*.



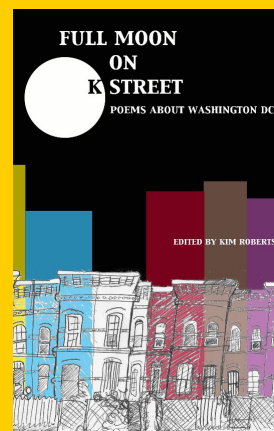
## STUDENT NEWS

**Lew Gleich** and **Jeremy Metz** will be presenting papers at the "Trauma: Intersections Among Narrative, Neuroscience, and Psychoanalysis" conference in DC in March. Lew's paper is entitled "The Shadow Narrative of 9/11: Temporality and Sequencing in Deborah Eisenberg's 'Twilight of the Superheroes.'" Jeremy's paper is entitled "When trauma is viewed from the other side: Ethics and the problem of the complicit witness."

**Sara Schotland's** "Talking Bird and Gentle Heart: Female Homosocial Bonding in the Squire's Tale" and **Ted Kaouk's** "Sovereign Fathers and Sovereign Friends in *Hamlet* and Michel de Montaigne's 'Of Friendship'" are to be published in *Friendship in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times*. Ed. Albrecht Classen and Marilyn Sandidge. Fundamentals of Medieval and Early Modern Culture (Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2010). **Ted** also has an article, "Perjur'd Rebel: Equivocal Allegiance and Abraham Cowley's *Cutter of Coleman Street*," that will appear in *Restoration: Studies in English Literary Culture, 1660-1700* (2010).

## Anthology of Poems about DC Published by Plan B Press

Plan B Press has announced the publication of the new anthology *Full Moon on K Street: Poems About Washington, DC*. Featuring over one hundred contemporary poems, the book captures DC's unique sense of place, from monuments to parks, from lawyers to bus stations, from go-go music to chili half-smokes.



All poems were written between 1950 and the present, by past and current residents of the city. Edited by **Kim Roberts**, a former adjunct teacher in poetry, American literature, and literature by women at the University of Maryland, and the publisher of the acclaimed online journal *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*, this anthology captures the city's many moods: celebratory, angry, and fiercely political.

Contributors include several people currently and formerly associated with University of Maryland, including: **Joshua Weiner, José Emilio Pacheco, Christina Daub, Hayes Davis, Minnie Bruce Pratt, and Reed Whittemore.**

For more information, see: <http://www.planbpress.com>

## HISTORY of the ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Academic rankings are always a little silly, especially from *US News & World Report*. When the magazine named Maryland to its 2009 list of the [top ten African American literature programs](#), they were just confirming what we already knew.

The mightiness of our current body of African American literature scholars draws its strength from forty years of achievement at the University of Maryland.

It was not until 1970 that President Wilson Elkins directed the formation of an interdisciplinary Black Studies Program at the University. The English Department was highly influential in getting the program off the ground. "Almost overnight it has become nearsighted and narrow visioned to the point of blindness to try and teach American literature without considering not only the formal literary works which Negroes have created and enjoyed, but also the less formal ones, the subject matter of folklore, whether oral or written, the lyrics of folk songs, the body of narrative tradition which has so long remained the private treasure of the Negro people in this country," said Department Head **Morris Freedman** in a 1969 paper read to the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. (The paper was published in *The Journal of Higher Education*. 42.1 (January 1971): 34-41.)



African American literature was taught regularly at Maryland during the 1960s: **Carl Bode** included black authors in his contemporary literature courses and a series of adjunct faculty taught African American literature courses. The undergraduate curriculum was fully revised to ensure exposure not only to African American literature, but a fuller range of Non-Anglo-American literatures. However, the hire of **Gladys-Marie Fry** in 1970 catapulted the department's new concentration to national prominence.

Fry's work on African American folklore and oral history established her as a cornerstone for the department's new concentrations in African American literature and in folklore. In 1975, Fry published *Night Riders in Black Folk History*, an analysis of surveillance, terror, and intimidation in black folk story. Reissued in 2000, its publisher, UNC Press, says, "this classic work continues to be a rich source for students and teachers of folklore, African American history, slavery and postemancipation studies." UNC Press also recently republished Fry's *Stitched from the Soul: Slave Quilts from the Antebellum South*. Fry's work on African American quilting won her a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1995.

With a new hire in African American literature expected for Fall 2010, the Department's reputation in the field is only expected to grow. Thanks to Freedman, Fry and later hires such as Ezra Naughton, Leon Coleman, Ernece Kelly among others, it's now impossible to imagine the fabric of our department without African American literature.

*Image Credit: University of Maryland Archives*

***Name that Library Answer: The Peabody Library in Baltimore, Maryland was founded by philanthropist George Peabody as a world-class research facility that would rival the best libraries in Europe. It is now owned by Johns Hopkins University and, following Mr. Peabody's wishes, is free and open to the public.***

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*The next edition of Bywords will be released on Monday, February 16. Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplished accomplishments by Friday, February 12th.*

*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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