

# BYWORDS

Department of English Newsletter

“She only had to stand in the orchard, to put her hand on a little crab tree and look up at the apples, to make you feel the goodness of planting and tending and harvesting at last -- Willa Cather”

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

As the semester whizzes by, several exciting conferences come closer to fruition. First up is **“A Celebration of Stanley Plumly and Poetry at the University of Maryland,”** a two-day fête of the newly instated Poet Laureate of Maryland on October 29 and 30. Click [here](#) for a full schedule of events and biographies of the speakers.



Also of interest to the Department, the Center for Renaissance and Baroque Studies and the University of Maryland welcome back **“Attending to Early Modern Women”** for its seventh triennial conference. To be held November 5-7, this year’s conference will focus on the theme of “Conflict, Concord.” Register now on the conference website available [here](#).

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

The second seminar in **Comparative Literary Studies Series** welcomes Merle Collins, Regina Harrison, and Juan Carlos Quintero-Herencia for a roundtable titled “Voices from the Field.” Friday, 10/16/09 at 3:00PM, Key Hall 1102.

The **Library of Congress** will run its next research orientation for graduate students on Monday, 10/19/09 at 10:00AM. The orientations are free but registration is required. For more information, click [here](#).

**Digital Dialogues** welcomes Doug Reside (Theatre) for a discussion titled, “If/Then 101: Teaching Programming at Maryland.” Tuesday, 10/20/09, McKeldin B0135. Click [here](#) for the full Digital Dialogues schedule.

The **MockTurtle Reading Series** reconvenes at The Wonderland Ballroom in Columbia Heights, D.C. for poetry and fiction readings by Maryland MFA students. Friday, 10/23/09 at 6:30PM. Click [here](#) for directions.

Joe Penhall’s 2007 play, *Landscape with Weapon*, will be next in the **Rehearsed Table-Read** series. University undergraduates will be directed by Michael Olmert. This is the play’s first production of any kind outside of England. Wednesday, 10/28/09 at 3:45PM, Tawes 1121, Ulrich Recital Hall.

**Writers Here & Now** welcomes poet Mary Jo Bang and fiction writer Terese Svoboda. Wednesday, 10/28/09 at 7:00PM, Tawes 1121, Ulrich Recital Hall.

The **Center for Teaching Excellence** will run a workshop on “Writing Across the English CORE Curriculum.” Friday, 11/6/09 at 9:00AM. More details are available [here](#).

## UPCOMING DEADLINES and DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

A reminder: the deadline for ordering textbooks is **October 15** if you are teaching Winter Term and **November 1** for Spring Semester.

Send copies of your order to **Isabella Moulton** in the Main English Office.



## National Day on Writing Celebrated in McKeldin

October 20 marks the National Day on Writing and as part of the **national celebration** the Department’s Writing Programs have teamed up with University Libraries to raise awareness of the written word’s impact on our lives. An exhibit tracing the history of writing is on display in McKeldin Libray now through October 23



More on the exhibit is available [here](#).

## THIS MONTH AT THE CENTER

Bookmark the [Center for Literary and Comparative Study's website](#) today, now featuring a full calendar of events sponsored by the Center. Quick links take you directly to the upcoming schedule for each lecture series sponsored by the Department!

**Thursday, October 15th:** *Chupucabra*, a play by Paloma Mohamed, performed by the Carivision Community Theatre -- Tawes Ulrich Recital Hall at 7:00PM

Characters of world mythology -- from Trinidad & Tobago, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, the Eastern Caribbean, Africa, and Europe -- are meeting in the crossroads at midnight. They are concerned because something is contaminating the blood supply necessary for their existence. After the play, there will be a discussion with Paloma Mohamed and others involved with the event. Sponsored by the Department of English and the Comparative Literature Program.

*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)*



## New Book from Horton Published by UT Press

*The Best of the West 2009: New Stories from the West Side of the Missouri*, co-edited by D. Seth Horton, Ph.D. candidate at Maryland, and James Thomas, has been published by University of Texas Press. The eighteen fiction selections from Lee K. Abbot, Rick Bass, Louise Erdrich, Ernest Finney, Dagoberto Gilb, Antonya Nelson, Joyce Carol Oates, Annie Proulx, and others are all new works published since 2007. Collectively, they assert that the West "is as much a state of mind as a geographical region," according to the editors.



Horton and Thomas write that their collection works toward finding an answer for deceptively simple question: "Everyone knows what the West is, but what in the hell is it?"

More information on *The Best of the West 2009*, including the table of contents and an editor's note, can be found on the [UT Press website](#). For Horton this edited collection follows his success with 2008's *New Stories from the Southwest* from [Swallow Press](#). Horton was previously fiction editor for the *Sonora Review*.

## Two Graduate Conferences Announced for Spring 2010

### "New Worlds: Cross-Cultural Exchange East and West" -- April 17, 2010



The Department's biannual Medieval and Renaissance conference is expected to draw graduate students from across the country for a day-long interdisciplinary discussion on the effects of New World encounters on literature, culture, politics, religion, philosophy, and science. The conference aims for a "broader understanding of 'New Worlds' to complicate the bifurcated focus on East/West relations."

**Bruce Holsinger**, Professor of English and Music at the University of Virginia, will be the keynote speaker for the conference. Abstracts are due January 15, 2010. Visit the [conference website](#) for more details.

### "Nomenclature" -- March 5 and 6, 2010

The Department's Graduate English Organization will be holding its third annual graduate student conference for [Consortium](#) graduate students in March. This year, GEO seeks to reinvigorate the age-old question "What's in a name?" by interrogating names, acts of naming, and taxonomies and discussing the implications of names and nomenclature for current directions in the arts and humanities.



**Tita Chico**, Associate Professor of English at the University of Maryland, and **Kavita Daiya**, Associate Professor of English at George Washington University will deliver keynote lectures. Abstracts are due December 4, 2009.

Visit the [conference website](#) for more details.

# ( FACULTYNEWS )

**Vin Carretta** spoke at Kenyon College in late September on “‘Genius in Bondage’: A Biography of Phillis Wheatley.” He will be researching Wheatley on an American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies Fellowship at the Library Company of Philadelphia during the last two weeks of October. Vin will speak at the University of Kentucky in November on “The Challenge of Writing a Biography of the Autobiographer Olaudah Equiano.”

**Maud Casey’s** story, “Fugueur,” published in the Spring 2008 issue of the *Bellevue Literary Review* is one of the “100 Other Distinguished Stories of 2008” in the most recent *Best American Short Stories*.

**Aparajita De** will be presenting a paper, titled “The Caged Bird Sings: The Politics of Subaltern Agency in *Pinjar*,” at December’s South Asian Literary Association conference in Philadelphia. De’s co-edited collection of essays, *Subaltern Vision: A Study in Postcolonial Indian English Novel*, is due for publication in Spring 2010. Her guest column, “Colored Minds, Colored People: Through a Looking Glass Darkly Beyond Race & American Culture,” will be published in the forthcoming Fall edition of **Cerebration**: *Online web journal of Drew University*, Eds., Amrita Ghosh and Smita Maitra.

In conjunction with the National Day on Writing on October 20, Senior Lecturer **Jo Findlay** will be hosting an all-day student resume writing clinic. Interested students can bring in their resumes for a critique from volunteer experts, including Joe and other PWP instructors and tutors from the Writing Center. Exact time/location will be announced soon. Until then, let students know about this free, valuable service.

In October, **Matthew Kirschenbaum** gave keynote lectures at the 4th Annual Nebraska Digital Workshop and at Histories of Reading/Reading Processes, a one-day conference at Columbia University. He also presented a refereed research paper at the Sixth International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects.

**Howard Norman** has a contract for a memoir, “I Hate To Leave This Beautiful Place,” with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

On Saturday, October 3, **Michael Olmert** gave two lectures on “The 18th Century Orangery and Other Outbuildings at Wye House,” as part of the celebration associated with Frederick Douglass and his 1881 return to Wye House, the plantation where he was once enslaved. He also spoke about “The Social History of Colonial Outbuildings” to the Docents’ Association, Gunston Hall Plantation, Virginia., on October 5. “Dairies and Other Colonial Outbuildings” will be his topic at the Rackliffe Plantation House in Worcester Co., Maryland on October 23.

**William S. Peterson** (emeritus) will deliver the keynote address at the annual conference of the American Printing History Association in Newport on October 17.

**Amy Scott-Douglas** will be presenting a paper titled “Kiss the Girls as *Taming of the Shrew*: On the Politics of Representation and Against the Limits of ‘Revision’ in Shakespeare That Does Not Name Shakespeare” at the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference, October 22-24

**Mary Switalski’s** short story “Traps” recently took second place in the 2009 Pinch Literary Awards competition. *The Pinch Literary Journal* is a publication of the University of Memphis. Mary teaches Engl 391.

**Joshua Weiner** has organized two Thom Gunn events in New York City, in which he will also participate: a conversation with poets John Peck and Brian Teare, at Poets House, on October 27th; and a tribute reading at the Poetry Society of America (with Alfred Corn, Elaine Equi, Wendy Lesser, Robert Pinsky, Robert Polito, and Tom Sleight) on October 28th.

**David Wyatt’s** “Hemingway’s Secret Histories” appears in the fall issue of *The Hopkins Review*.

# ( STUDENTNEWS )

**D. Seth Horton** presented a paper at the Western Literature Association’s annual conference entitled, “Translating Southwestern Modernism: The Transcultured Re-Expressions of Mary Austin’s One-Smoke Stories.”

**Jasmine Lellock** will be presenting at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo next May. Her paper, is entitled “‘Off þe marvellys þat wer wondrously wrowght’: Magic, Miracle, and Meta-theatricality in the Croxton Play of the Sacrament.”

**Sara Schotland’s** has recently published three articles: “Who’s That in Charge? It’s Jenny Wren, ‘The Person of hte House,’” *Disability Studies Quarterly* 29.3 (2009); “The Slave’s Revenge: The Terror in Charlotte Dacre’s *Zofloya*,” *Western J. of Black Studies* 33.2 (2009); and “When Ethical Principles and Feminist Jurisprudence Collide: An Unorthodox Reading of Susan Glaspell’s *A Jury of Her Peers*,” *St. John’s Journal of Legal Commentary* 24.1 (2009).

## HISTORY of the ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

This year will mark the 150th anniversary of the Maryland English Department. Bywords will be celebrating our long legacy and the important role of the department in the university.

Throughout the 1940s and '50s, as the University grew, the Department of English continued to grow in stature, drawing several eminent professors to Morrill Hall. Expanding out from the Department's strengths in Victorian and Medieval literature, the Shakespearean scholar W. Gordon Zeeveld joined the faculty in 1938. Zeeveld made use of the newly opened Folger Shakespeare Library for research in his frequently cited 1948 book, *Foundations of Tudor Policy*.



Two prominent Americanists also made names for themselves at Maryland during this time. The Department's first full-fledged Americanist, Harry Redcay Warfel, published numerous books while at Maryland, including the landmark anthology of U.S. literature, *The American Mind*. In 1945, Guy Cardwell arrived to complement work being done by Warfel. Several of Cardwell's editions of Mark Twain and George Washington Cable are still in print today.



These foundational figures laid the groundwork for departmental strengths in nineteenth-century American literature and Renaissance studies that continue on sixty

years later. As Halloween approaches, it's fun to think that these foundational figures in literary studies at Maryland might still have a ghostly presence on campus. As University Archivist Anne Turkos [explains](#), Morrill Hall is after all the most haunted building on campus. The possibility remains open for the next in the Local Americanists or Renaissance Reckonings to be conducted via séance.

## 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 **Monday, November 16th.**

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