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An Alumni Digest of the University of Maryland Graduate Programs in English

GEO Conference

The Graduate English Organization hosted its second annual graduate student conference, (Media)tions: Translating the Body Politic, on February 27 and 28. Keynote speakers for the event were Dr. Jonathan Gil Harris and UMD’s own Dr. Zita Nunes. For more information, visit the website at http://mediationsconf.wordpress.com.

Save the date!

Visit http://english.umd.edu for more info.

2009 Petrou Lecture & Seminar

[ March 5 & 6 ]

3/5 3:30-5:00

3/6 10:00-12:00

Contact Abby at abbym@umd.edu to register and receive copies of readings.

Using Wikis and Blogs in the Writing Classroom

[ March 11 1:00 ]

Discuss the possibilities and benefits of using collaborative technologies.

Contact Jasmine at jelleck@umd.edu for more info.

Fiction writer Selah Saterstrom and poet Juliana Spahr read from their work in the Special Events Room, 6th Floor, McKeldin Library, with a reception at 6:15, Dorchester Hall, Jimenez-Porter Writers House.

Back Pages would like to invite you to rediscover your connections with the University of Maryland! This digest offers just one opportunity to connect with old friends and new colleagues. We encourage you to use this resource to network and to become involved in our intellectual communities.

Please send updates about your publications, awards, current positions, and other news to englishgrad@umd.edu.
Alumni Updates

Dr. Tod Jones

Tod is adjunct faculty at the University of Maryland, as well as a 1997 graduate of the Ph.D. program. In March of this year, the Philosophy Documentation Center is going to be releasing in electronic format the following two publications, both edited by Tod:


(2) Letters of Francis William Newman, Chiefly on Religion: The Braithwaite Correspondence, 1868-1897.

Adrienne McCormick

Adrienne graduated from UMCP in 1998 and has been a professor at SUNY Fredonia ever since, where she now serves as chair of the English Department. She teaches courses in feminist theory, multiethnic literature, women and film, and women writers. Every summer, Adrienne takes a group of students to London for two weeks to study twentieth century women writers. Her publications have focused on Asian American and African American literature and feminist filmmaking. Her current research project is a collection of essays on the Global V-Day Movement and Eve Ensler’s Vagina Monologues.


Her husband Brian owns a small boutique and café in Fredonia, and they have three kids. Kai is 7, Indigo is 4, and Rouen is 1. In Adrienne’s words, “Parenting rocks.”
UMD Department News…and How to Be a Part of the Action

Latest Department News

Canned Food Drive

On Thursday, 29 January 2009, English Graduate Studies hosted a Give-a-Little, Get-A-Little Lunch—a food and funding drive to benefit the Capital Area Food Bank. Faculty, staff, and students were invited to come and share in this opportunity to welcome the new year and semester, which is also an opportunity for us to contribute to the broader community around us by supporting the Capital Area Food Bank. The English Department (in the person of Kent Cartwright) graciously underwrote this event, which featured lunch catered by Woodlands Indian Restaurant in Takoma Park. About 40 faculty, staff, and students participated in donating food, cash, and eating! We contributed $250 and four food donations—boxes of food stuffs to the CAFB: 35 cans of soup and jars of sauces; 26 packages of pastas and grains; 27 cans of vegetables and fruit; 25 cans of protein; as well as fruit juice and some miscellaneous, hard to categorize items. The CAFB calculates that $1 = 3 meals, so even on the cash donation alone, this contribution has made a difference.

Getting Involved

- **Attend** campus events. See the department calendar at www.english.umd.edu.

- Be an alumni **mentor**: contact Jasmine at jlellock@umd.edu for more info.

- Submit a short piece of **writing** to the newsletter—a poem, tips for grad students, thoughts on the field, reflections on your professional path. Send your work to jlellock@umd.edu.

- Become a **fan** of the UMD Graduate Studies **Facebook** page: http://www.facebook.com/home.php?/pages/College-Park-MD/University-of-Maryland-Graduate-English-Program/42871323713 or search for “UMD Graduate English Program.”

Fundraiser Mug

Get your very own UMD Graduate Studies **mug** for only $10.

Contact Kandice at kchuh@umd.edu for information.
Recent Job Placements

Keiko Arai (PhD anticipated 2009) has accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship at Musashi University, Tokyo (Japan). Keiko is completing her dissertation, “American Girls: Nation and Gender in James, Wharton, and Cather,” under the direction of Marilee Lindemann.

Misun Dokko (PhD 2008) has accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship at Shippensburg University. Her dissertation, “Dirty Bodies: Filth and Marginal Characters in Asian American Literature,” was directed by Kandice Chuh.

Nancy Comorau (PhD anticipated 2009) has accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship at Ohio Wesleyan University. Nancy is completing her dissertation, “Postcolonial Refashionings: Reading Forms, Reading Novels,” under the direction of Sangeeta Ray.

Simone Drake (PhD 2007), currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Ohio State University, has accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship at OSU. Her dissertation, “Sometimes folk need more’: Black Women Writers Dwelling in the Beyond,” was directed by David Wyatt.

Delores Phillips (PhD anticipated 2009) has accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship at Old Dominion University. Delores is completing her dissertation, “Bittersweet Tastes of Home: Diasporic Longing and the Postcolonial Cookbook,” under the direction of Sangeeta Ray.

Katherine Singer (PhD anticipated 2009) has accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship at Mt. Holyoke College. Kate is completing her dissertation, “Romantic Vacancy and British Women’s Poetry,” under the direction of Neil Fraistat and Orrin Wang.

Kelly Wisecup (PhD anticipated 2009) has accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship at the University of North Texas. Kelly is completing her dissertation, “Communicating Disease: Medical Knowledge and Literary Form in Colonial British America,” under the direction of Ralph Bauer.

Publications

Many of our current graduate students and recent alumni have published their scholarly and creative work. Check out the Graduate Studies website for information: http://www.english.umd.edu/grad-program/grad-achievements/grad-life-achieve-pub-recent.

Awards and Accomplishments

For a more complete list of graduate students accomplishments see the graduate studies website at http://www.english.umd.edu/grad-program/grad-achievements or our facebook page.
A Welcome from the Chair

It is wonderful to have our newly enhanced departmental website as a venue where alumni can keep track of fellow graduates and of activities in the department, and where they can provide updates on their own adventures.

The English department has a fabulous group of graduate alumni who are now teaching in the academy, working professionally, and publishing scholarly and creative work. It is helpful for you to know each other, even though you may have come through our programs at different times. I hope that all of you will keep in touch with the department and let us know what you are doing. Likewise, I hope that you will look for announcements (or contact me) about receptions for Maryland faculty, alumni, and graduate students at future MLA conferences. I held my first such reception at the MLA conference in San Francisco in December, and it was great to renew contact with a number of graduates of our program. I look forward to seeing more of you in the future.

The English department is doing well, despite the difficult economic times affecting all of us. As you will see from perusing the website, faculty continue to publish impressively and to win awards and fellowships. Indeed, the present group of faculty may be the best that we have ever had. The department has been integrating the new PhD program in Comparative Literature into its operations – with a new sense of globalism touching all of us. In June we will be moving into a fabulous new home in Tawes Hall, which has been entirely renovated for the English department. Recently, I toured the facility, under construction right now, and was awed by its scale and the quality of its space. Many of you will be delighted to hear that teaching assistants will be sharing actual offices: no more TA “bullpen”! With the beginning of the fall semester, the department will be launching its newly approved Center for Literary and Comparative Studies, under the directorship of Professor Robert Levine, which will operate as the intellectual nexus of the department. We look forward to an inaugural year of exciting activities in Tawes Hall. If you are going to be in the area, please contact our graduate office and stop by.

Kent Cartwright
Professor and Chair
Alumni Listserv

For information, questions, or to be added or removed from the listserv, please send a message to umenglishgrad@GMAIL.COM.

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Contact Jasmine Lellock at jlellock@umd.edu with queries, submissions, and updates.

Look for our next edition in late spring. Don’t forget to submit your news for inclusion by April 30!