Welcome to the pages of the first ever University of Maryland Graduate English alumni digest! We hope this publication provides a forum for reflection on your experience at UMD, as well as a space to learn about the exciting new work of your fellow alums. This digest further aims to plug you into campus news and events. We wish to invite you to become involved in our intellectual communities.

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

New Books by Alumni

Check out these new monographs by UMD alums, Marsha Oregrón’s Hollywood Ambitions: Celebrity in the Movie Age and Devin Oregrón’s Road Movies: From Muybridge and Melies to Lynch and Kiarostami.

Save the Date!

UMD Graduate Student Conference
[February 27-8]
2nd annual DC area conference
http://mediationsconf.wordpress.com

Writers Here & Now
[February 18]
Arthur Sze & Joan Silber read from their work
7-8 Special Events Room, 6th Floor McKeldin; 6:15 Reception, Dorchester Hall, Jimenez-Porter Writers House

2009 Petrou Lecture and Seminar
[March 5 & 6]
3/5
3:30-5:00 Susquehanna Hall 1120
3/6
10:00-12:00 location TBA
Ellyn Bache
Ellyn is a 1967 M.A. graduate and the author of about a dozen books, most of them fiction, including Holiday Miracles: A Christmas/Hannukah Story. Ellyn wrote this novel after realizing that there was quite a bit out there for children of interfaith marriages like mine, but hardly anything for their parents. It was published to good reviews, a spot on the Publishers Weekly Recommended Holiday Reading list, and general critical agreement that people of any religion could enjoy it. This holiday season, she thought it would be nice to make the story available for free to anyone who might want it—so there’s a link to a free PDF of the novella on the home page of her website, www.ellynbache.com, with her “very best wishes for a happy holiday.”

Kevin M. Davis
Kevin is currently in his second year at Georgetown Law. He is also a research assistant for Professor Neal Katyal, and since May of this year he has worked with him on two different Supreme Court cases.

Dr. Jeana DelRosso (with Drs. Leigh Eicke & Ana Kothe)

Marsha and Devin Oregron
Marsha and Devin are both associate professors and have recently published books (featured on page 1).

Jill Colella
Jill has published two cookbooks: Jewish Holidays Cookbook (DK, 2008) and Grow It, Cook It (DK, 2008). Her website, which is set to relaunch soon, also has dynamic content and blogs www.teachkidstocook.com.
UMD Department News... and How to Be a Part of the Action

Latest Department News

Moving to Tawes

The department is finally moving to our new home in Tawes this June.

Retirement of Gary Hamilton

On the unanimous recommendation of the faculty, Hamilton will be awarded the status of Associate Professor Emeritus when he retires at the end of the fall semester. Hamilton has given 40-years of service to the English department.

Conference On American Empire and Imperialism Held at Maryland

On November 7 and 8, a team of graduate students from Robert Levine’s Spring 2008 seminar held a national conference on the theme of “Rethinking Empire and Imperialism in 19th Century American Literature.”

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.
Current Grad Students

Recent Graduations
Michelle Brown, Jonathan Buehl, Gia Harewood, and Kaylen Tucker graduated in December. David Brookshire and Helen Hull defended in December but will receive their degrees in May 2009. Mark Hoffman defended his MA capstone in December and is moving on for the PhD. Congratulations, new alumni!

Publications
Many of our current graduate students 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.

GEO News and Notes
GEO (Graduate English Organization) will have another T-Shirt fundraiser in the spring. T-shirts are $12. Contact Kara Fontenot at karanmo@hotmail.com for more information.
Don’t forget the Graduate Student Conference in February!
A Note from the Director of Graduate Studies

Dear Graduates:

I’m delighted to be writing to you, and to be in touch with the many of you who have written in response to the email earlier sent announcing the listserv. One of things I like best about being DGS is working across the wide spectrum of students in our programs, and hearing of your degree afterlives feeds into that enjoyment.

The new year finds English Graduate Studies -- like everyone else and seemingly everywhere -- faced with budget cuts and the corollary need to think creatively about how to sustain and advance the work of the students in our programs. We are fortunate to have a department chair, Professor Kent Cartwright, who is committed to insulating students from the effects of the budget cuts as much as possible; and we are equally fortunate to have enormously talented students who -- like so many of you did during your tenures here -- manage to do their work and to do it well despite challenging material constraints.

Perhaps their ability to do so is facilitated by mindfulness about the all too pervasive conditions of war, poverty, and disease that sometimes feel ineradicable but against which there is no other choice but to stand and work. If in the context of these conditions literary and cultural studies can have only limited immediate impact, I believe quite strongly that the practices of critical reading and thinking and writing, proliferated through our teaching, research, students, and graduates, cannot but be practices that gesture to hope for a different world. It’s this ethos above all -- this sense of responsibility to and for something and some others much beyond our individual selves and careers -- that we strive to sustain in our programs. And I’m grateful to you for participating in that sense of broad community with and beyond the University of Maryland.

Please stay in touch and send news of your doings, and we will do likewise. Best, best wishes for 2009 to you and yours.

Kandice
Alumni Listserv

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

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

Look for our next edition in early spring. Don’t forget to submit your news for inclusion by February 20!