

BYWORDS

Department of English Newsletter

Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.
-Edith Sitwell

www.english.umd.edu/bywords

HIGHLIGHTS

Happy Holidays and congratulations on a productive and exciting semester. This fall, our department witnessed the publication of six new faculty books, many new articles published by professors and graduate students, a major graduate conference in Susquehanna, the residency of one of today's foremost authors, and nearly three dozen guest speakers hosted for various series. Needless to say, we've earned a break!

Retirement of Gary Hamilton



Gary Hamilton is retiring from the faculty at the end of this semester. Although we will miss him, the Department is happy to announce that, on the unanimous recommendation of the faculty, he retires with the presidentially awarded status of Associate Professor Emeritus.

Gary gave 40-years of service to the English department. He has spent his entire career at the University of Maryland, having accepted an appointment as assistant professor after completing his PhD at the University of Wisconsin. He is a noted expert on religious dissent in the Restoration; and his achievements include a now-canonical essay on the religious politics surrounding Marvell's "Upon Appleton House." Gary was also a valued and admired teacher, having taught a range of courses, from Honors sections of British Literature, to Milton, to the graduate seminar in seventeenth-century literature.

He served on major departmental committees, and chaired those on the departmental plan of organization, general education, and faculty-staff relations. Most recently, Gary served brilliantly from 2001-05 as associate chair and in 2006-07 as acting chair of English and director of Comparative Literature. In his year as acting chair, among other things, he oversaw seven APT cases, effected a significant and well-conceived reorganization of the staff, was crucially instrumental in retaining key faculty, and reduced teaching loads and raised stipends for PhD students. Not a bad year.

We all know, however, that Gary's contribution to the department has been much greater than any list of accomplishments can quite comprehend. His good-humor, warm congeniality, friendship to faculty and students, and deep love of learning and of this profession have lifted our spirits and will remain in our hearts. I hope that all of you will join with me in congratulating Gary on his accomplished career and wishing him the very best in retirement.

-- Kent Cartwright, Professor and Chair, Department of English

UPCOMING DEADLINES and DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

Reminder! Textbook orders for Winter and Spring 2009 courses were due **December 1st** to the University Book Center. Click on "faculty" and then "adoptions form." Please send a copy of your order to **Isabella Moulton** at imoulton@umd.edu. The students and the book stores will very much appreciate your prompt attention to this matter!

The editorial board of *Interpolations: A Journal of First Year Writing* is hard at work soliciting, collecting, and gearing up to read all of the submissions from our first-year writing students. Publication of the inaugural edition of *Interpolations* should take place in early February. If you haven't encouraged your English 101 students to submit their papers, please do so!

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The next edition of *Bywords* will be released on Monday, January 26. Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplished accomplishments by **Thursday, January 22.**

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

FOR YOUR REFERENCE

The Graduate Studies Program has launched a **Facebook Page** with information for current students, alumni, and prospective students. There is a discussion page for GEO events and program information. Become a fan today!

December Commencement will be held on Sunday, December 21st at 4:00 PM in the Elise & Marvin Dekelboum Concert Hall in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. [Click here](#) for more info. Hope to see you there!

GEO Conferences Announces Keynote Speakers, Extends Paper Proposal Deadline

Jonathan Gil Harris (George Washington University, the author of *Sick Economies: Drama, Mercantilism, and Disease in Shakespeare's England* and *Untimely Matter in the Time of Shakespeare*) and **Zita Nunes** (University of Maryland, the author of *Cannibal Democracy: Race and Representation in the Literature of the Americas*) will be the keynote speakers at GEO's graduate conference, "**(Media) tions: Translating the Body Politic.**"

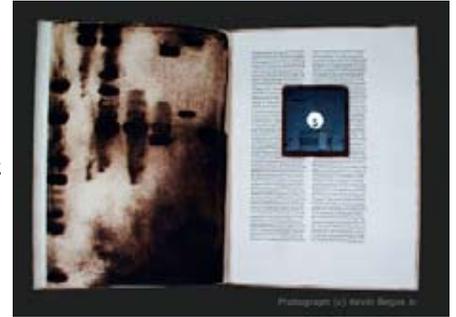
GEO has extended the deadline for submitting paper and panel proposals to January 15th. Response so far has been very strong from area universities. The event promises to be a congenial celebration of academic activity among the department's graduate student. The conference will be held on February 27-28 in conjunction with the English Department's graduate student recruitment day.

More information is available on the [conference website](#).

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

MITH Leads Digital Preservation of William Gibson's "AGRIPPA (a book of the dead)"

The text of William Gibson's elusive electronic poem AGRIPPA has not been seen in its original incarnation -- custom-built software designed to scroll the poem through a single play before encrypting each line with an unbreakable algorithm -- since 1992. In a glimpse of textual criticism for the 21st century, **Matthew Kirschenbaum**, working with colleague Doug Reside at MITH, as well as personnel from OIT's Digital Forensics lab led a team of scholars who successfully restored the code from an original diskette loaned by a collector. They have placed video of the complete 'run,' as well as never-before-seen footage from the night of AGRIPPA's public debut in 1992, up on a Web site devoted to the work: <http://agrippa.english.ucsb.edu>



Kirschenbaum's approach to textual scholarship finds a new way of connecting past and present. "I got a chill up my spine when we succeeded with the forensics, because I knew I was looking at something that had not been seen in 15 year," says Kirschenbaum. The AGRIPPA project opens new possibilities for thinking about digitally born materials: "With an old book, aura is bound up with the feeling of the uniqueness of that one singular artifact." But, Kirschenbaum says, his experience with AGRIPPA suggests that the idea "aura" of artifacts translates to the digital humanities.

At the AGRIPPA site, there is also a detailed essay by Kirschenbaum documenting the forensic process: "No Round Trip: Two New Primary Sources for AGRIPPA." News of this achievement went "viral" on the Web within hours of its release on December 9th, resulting in coverage on sites like Slashdot, Boing Boing, and Wired.

Auf Wiedersehen to Isabell Klaiber



Dr. Isabell Klaiber, Visiting Professor of English from the University of Tübingen, bids the University of Maryland farewell soon. Klaiber, whose research concerns gender studies and ethnic minorities in 19th century American literature, was the latest participant in the faculty exchange between the Maryland English Department and the Tübingen American Studies program.

Klaiber taught two courses this fall: ENGL 313 – American Literature and ENGL 479Q – Gender & Genius in 19th-Century American Literature. While in the United States, Klaiber also presented a paper at the American Studies Association conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in October, and was the final speaker for Maryland's Local Americanists series in December.

While pursuing her Ph.D. at Tübingen, Klaiber spent a year at Tufts University, lecturing in German and studying American literature. Teaching and researching in the United States has proven to be a welcome return for Klaiber. "It was not much of a question that I would apply for this exchange program," says Klaiber, "The resources in the US are just incredible for a European Americanist."

Although she won't be teaching this spring, Klaiber expects to remain in the area until March to take advantage of research opportunities at the University of Maryland, the Library of Congress, and elsewhere. The experience has been invigorating and offered the opportunity to probe important questions for her research. "One of the overall questions we dealt with in my 300-level course was how 'Americanness' is depicted and negotiated in literature. As a non-American instructor, I found this particularly interesting to discuss with my American students," says Klaiber.

FACULTY NEWS

Six poems from **Elizabeth Arnold's** book-length sequence, *Effacement*, are appearing in the December issue of *Chicago Review*. The book will be published by Flood Editions in early 2010.

Jeanne Fahnestock has been selected as the single nominee from the entire College Park campus for this year's Board of Regents Faculty Award for Teaching. Thanks to **Jane Donawerth** for putting together the dossier for the award.

Mark Fitzgerald's travel piece, titled "You're History," with photos about Colonial Williamsburg was published in the fall issue of *Interval World Magazine*. The historic area, adjacent to The College of William & Mary, serves as a backdrop for one of the area's ghost tours. The interpreters speak of the past in the present, which tends to add to the idea "that the future may learn from the past," Mark explains. The hard copy of the article is posted on the news board in PWP near the copier machine.

Connie Inukai attended the November 7th Plain Language Symposium, held at the National Press Club. The symposium discussed plain language as reader-focused writing in the fields of finance, health literacy, and others. For more information about Plain Language, please visit <http://www.centerforplainlanguage.org> and <http://www.plainlanguage.gov>

In November, **Matt Kirschenbaum** spoke by invitation about his work on born-digital literary artifacts at the 8th Biennial Flair Symposium, "Creating a Usable Past," at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas.

Department lecturer and 2008 MFA graduate **Tyler Caroline Mills** was awarded the *Crab Orchard Review's* 2009 Richard Paterson Poetry Prize for a group of three poems and the 2008 *Third Coast Poetry Prize* for a single poem. She has poems forthcoming in *AGNI*, *Georgia Review*, and *New Letters*.

Michael Olmert gave a talk titled "'Nevermind the Pity. Poetry is in the Printing Too': The Great War and the Special Case of Isaac Rosenberg (1890-1918)" at McKeldin Library's symposium on "Books, Libraries, and Modern War" on December 5th. The symposium was part of ARHU's "Semester on War and the Representation of War."

Sangeeta Ray was invited to write the lead article for an e-collection on Anita Desai's novel *In Custody*. The novel has been chosen as the text for the French 'Agrégation d'anglais' 2009 as its literature option. Ray is also giving a lecture based on the novel and the film for the teachers and professors participating in the Agrégation at Le Centre de Recherches Espace/Ecritures at de l'Université Paris Ouest Nanterre (Paris X). Ray is giving another lecture titled "The Lay of the Land: Postcolonial Studies in the France and the United States" at Francois Rabelais University in Tours.

This semester, **Brian Richardson** gave the plenary address at Freiburg University's conference on "Unnatural Narratology," as well as invited talks on modern fiction and narrative theory at Aarhus (Denmark) and the University of Paris 7 (Diderot), and delivered a 90 minute lecture on narrative beginnings at the Center for Research in the Arts and Languages at the École des Hautes Études in Paris. He is also reading a paper on narrative theory and postcolonial studies at MLA. His article, "Sex, Silver, and Biblical Allegory: Thematic and Intertextual Closure in *Nostromo*," appears in the current issue of *Conradiana*. His anthology, *Narrative Beginnings: Theories and Practices*, was published in November.

Short fiction from **Ingrid Satelmajer** has been published or is forthcoming in *the minnesota review*, *Talking River*, *The Sand Hill Review*, *Switchback*, *Euphony*, *Pank* and *CutBank*. An essay by Ingrid

HISTORY of the ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Next 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.

F.B. Bomberger, A.B. became the fourth Chair of the renamed Department of English and Civics in 1897. Bomberger graduated from Maryland Agricultural College in 1894 and received his A.M. from Maryland in 1899. This perhaps makes him the first graduate of the college to pursue a career as an English professor!

T.A.'s feeling overworked should look to Bomberger as an inspiration. According to the catalog, Bomberger taught sixteen classes in '97-'98, mostly in literature, but also in history and civics. At this time, the catalog also notes the broadening scope and increased depth of the department: "The English work, which is common to all courses, consists of the study and structure of the English language, literature (English and American), theoretical and practical rhetoric, logic, critical reading and analysis, and constant exercise in expression, composition, and thesis."

will appear ("Print Poetry as Oral 'Event' in Nineteenth-Century American Periodicals") in a collection edited by Sandra M. Gustafson and Caroline F. Sloat, *Cultural Narratives: Textuality and Performance in the United States before 1900*. Ingrid will be speaking, by invitation, at the upcoming American Literature Association conference on the theoretical implications of reading/studying periodicals in digital form (part of a Round Table Discussion co-sponsored by the Research Society for American Periodicals and Digital Americanists).

The University Provost and the College Park Senate has jointly appointed **Martha Nell Smith** to serve as chair of the University Library Council.

STUDENT NEWS

The MFA Program in Creative Writing is pleased to announce the nominees for the 2008-2009 Intro Journals Project, a literary competition for the discovery and publication of new work by students currently enrolled in creative writing programs around the country. The nominees in poetry are: **Natalie Corbin** for "Memorial;" **Melissa Nyman** for "Documentary;" and **Kim O'Connor** for "Thrush." The nominee in fiction is **Dory Hoffman** for the excerpt from her novel, "cope." The nominee in nonfiction is **Sarah Fang** for "The Missing Pictures."

Interpolations: A Journal of First Year Writing received approval for a generous operating grant from the Campus Student Technology Fee Advisory Committee (CSTFAC) for which we are honored and thankful.

Martin Camper presented a paper at this year's annual convention of the National Communication Association in San Diego, held November 21-24. The paper was titled, "Augustine's Anxiety: Ungovernable Speech and the Rising Tyranny of Text in Christianity."

Maggie Ellen Fromm's paper "Identifying Lingual Heresy: The Roles of English and Anglo-Norman in Views of Heresy in Post-Conquest England" was accepted for the 2009 International Medieval Congress in Leeds, England.

Kelly McGovern's article, "'No right to be a child': Irish Girlhood and Queer Time in Éilís Ní Dhuibhne's *The Dancers Dancing*," will be published in the Spring/Summer 2009 issue of *Eire-Ireland*.

MARYLAND AT MLA

Several faculty members and graduate students will be presenting papers or presiding over panels at MLA 2008 in San Francisco, December 27-30.

Those presenting papers include: **Jonathan Auerbach** will be the respondent for the session on Jack London's "*The Iron Heel* at One Hundred;" **Deborah Bailin**, "Disability Awareness through Eudora Welty's *The Golden Apples*;" **Joseph Byrne**, "'A Traveller on the Skirt of Sarum's Plain': Wordsworth's Flight from Joseph Johnson Circle in the Salisbury Plain Poems;" **Tanya Clement**, "The Poetries of Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven: A Digital Genetic Edition in the Versioning Machine," also participating in a panel for "Methodologies for Literary Studies in the Digital Age;" **William Cohen**, "Losing Consciousness;" **Kara Fontenot**, "American Hysteria, Civil Liberties, and the Literary Left: Langston Hughes and Lorraine Hansberry;" **Daniel Hartley**, "Blue Dachau: Jazz and Blues Aesthetics in John A. Williams's *Clifford's Blues*;" **Linda Kauffman**, "'This Book Is Not to Be Doubted': Islam, Terrorism, and Trauma in Don DeLillo's *Falling Man*;" **Matthew Kirschenbaum**, "If Shakespeare Had a Hard Drive: Our Bom-Digital Literary Heritage;" **Kari Kraus**, speaking on a panel titled, "Promoting the Useful Arts: Copyright, Fair Use, and the Digital Scholar;" **Robert Levine**, "Working against Archives;" **Keguro Macharia**, "Infectious Urbanity: Queering Kenyan Subjects;" **Sangeeta Ray** will be the respondent for the session on "Green Asian America;" **Brian Richardson**, "Narrative Theories and Postcolonial Texts;" **Laura Rosenthal**, "Constantinople;" **Marc Ruppel**, "Change the Channel, Then Turn the Page: Cross sited Narratives and the New Textual Order" and "Narrative Convergence and the New Medial Ecology;" **Martha Nell Smith**, "Digitally Yours; or, Dwelling in the Possibilities of Dynamic Editing" and participating in "Roundtable on Electronic Editions and Archives of Poetry;" **Lara Torsky**, "Redoing Identity: Virtual Lesbians, Convergence Culture, and *The L Word*;" and **Kelly Wisecup**, "'The Communication Commonly Call'd Inoculation of the Small-pox': African Medical Testimony, the Colonial Public Sphere, and the 1721 Boston Inoculation Controversy."

Those presiding over panels: **Kandice Chuh**, "Green Asian America," arranged by the Division on Asian American Literature; **William Cohen**, "Wilde Archives," arranged by the American Conference for Irish Studies; **Matthew Kirschenbaum**, "Second Lives: Reading and Writing Virtual Worlds," arranged by the Discussion Group on Media and Literature; and **Zita Nunes**, "Humanities 2.0: Participatory Learning in an Age of Technology," arranged by MLA Executive Council.

Visit www.english.umd.edu for more news updates and upcoming events!