

Bywords

English Department News
Fall 2008

University of Maryland
October 15, 2008

HIGHLIGHTS

The department is primed for the first UMD Artist-In-Residence talk of the year: Pulitzer Prize and PEN/Faulkner Award winning author of *The Hours*, **Michael Cunningham**. As part of ARHU's Semester on War, Cunningham will give a talk on "The Wars at Home: From the AIDS Epidemic to 9/11." A discussion will follow. Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, October 29th at 7:00PM**. [Click for more info.](#)

Amy Kaplan (UPenn), Jesse Alemán (New Mexico), Christopher Castiglia (Penn State) Jennifer James (George Washington), Caroline Lavender (Rice), Shirley Samuels (Cornell), Ralph Bauer, Robert Levine, Zita Nunes, Martha Nell Smith are among those involved in **Rethinking Empire and Imperialism in 19th Century American Literature**. This national graduate conference, sponsored by the English Department, will feature 40 graduate students from 18 universities. Please join us on November 7th and 8th in Susquehanna Hall. [Click for more info.](#)

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

The **Medieval & Renaissance Discussion Group** will be reading Thomas Dekker and John Webster's *Westward Ho* on Wednesday, October 15th at 12:00PM in Susquehanna 3105. E-mail [Jasmine Lellock](#) for more info.

The **Eighteenth-Century Reading Group** will be discussing Epistolary Exchanges: L'Étrange's *Five Love Letters from a Nun to a Cavalier* on Wednesday, October 15th at 3:15PM. E-mail [Joanne Roby](#) for more info.

Frank McGuinness' 1987 play "Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Toward the Somme" will be third **Semester on War Table Read** of the

semester. **Michael Olmert** directs undergraduate English majors on Wednesday, October 15th, 2008 at 3:45PM in Susquehanna 1120.

Jeffrey Masten, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Gender Studies Program at Northwestern University, will present the second **Renaissance Reckonings** of the semester. His talk will be entitled "Glossing and T*pping: Editing Sexuality and Race in *Othello*." Join us in Susquehanna 2117 at 3:30PM on Thursday, October 16th. Contact [Marshall Grossman](#) for more info.

Kathleen Fitzpatrick of Pomona College, a leading figure in the debate swirling around the future of publishing, continues MITH's **Digital Dialogues** series. Fitzpatrick will speak on "Planned Obsolescence: Publishing, Technology and the Future of the Academy" on Tuesday, October 21st in McKeldin B0135. [Click for more info.](#)

Associate Professor **Elizabeth Arnold** will read from her work-in-progress EFFACEMENT, as part of ARHU's "**War and Representation of War Series**." Arnold says her new poetry focuses on "the physical dimension of war – the disfigurement, pain, social isolation." The reading will be on Wednesday, October 22nd in the McKeldin Special Events Room. [Click for more info.](#)

Kant, Nietzsche, Eagleton, and Cornell will be on tap for **Theory Colloquium** in Francis Scott Key Hall 1102 on Friday, October 24th at 3:00PM. [Click here for more info.](#)

Renaissance Revels will raise the roof with an unrehearsed reading of Thomas Middleton's *A Mad World, My Masters* on Monday October 27th at 3:00PM. [Click here for more info.](#)

Stanley Plumly inaugurates the 2008-09 “**Speaking of Books...** Conversations with Campus Authors” series presented by UM Libraries. Plumly will discuss his latest work, *Posthumous Keats: A Personal Biography*, on Monday, October 27th at 4:30PM in the McKeldin Special Events Room. [Click here for more info.](#)

The Eighteenth-Century Reading Group welcomes Professor Srinivas Aravamudan of Duke University for a lecture entitled “Enlightenment Orientalism: Resisting the Rise of the Novel” on Monday, October 27th at 5:00PM in Susquehanna 1105. Contact [Laura Rosenthal](#) for more info.

John Archer and Nabil Matar, Professors of English at NYU and University of Minnesota, will lead the first **Comparative Crossings Seminar** of the year. The seminar is entitled “Early Modern Europe and Islam” and will take place on Thursday, October 30th at 3:30PM. Contact [Zita Nunes](#) for more info.

Professor of English at Penn State Paul Youngquist will deliver a lecture entitled “The Mother Ship Connection: Romanticism, Race, and Slavery” to the **Washington Area Romanticists Group** on Saturday, November 1st at 10:00AM. All are welcome. Contact [Orrin Wang](#) for more info.

Attention Graduate Students: the Fall MLA Interview Information Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6th at 4:00PM. Contact [Tita Chico](#) for more info.

Michael Olmert directs a rehearsed table reading of Shakespeare’s *Troilus and Cressida* for the **Center for Renaissance and Baroque Studies’ Play & Poetry Reading Series**. The reading takes place on Wednesday, November 5th at 3:45PM in Susquehanna 1120. [Click here for more info.](#)

McKeldin Library will host **War in Literature: A Marathon Public Reading**, from 11:00AM to 11:00PM on Tuesday, November 11th in the McKeldin Special Events Room. Members of the University are encouraged to volunteer to read excerpts from their favorite literary works. [Click here for more info.](#)

Dr. Casper de Jonge is traveling 3800 miles from Leiden University to College Park just to talk to you about “Building Discourse: Architectural Metaphors in Ancient Composition Theory.” This **Language, Writing, and Rhetoric Group** lecture will be on Tuesday, November 11th at 5:00PM in Susquehanna 1117. Contact [Vessela Valiavitcharska](#) for more info.

Pulitzer Prize finalist Bruce Smith and Rea Award winner Antonya Nelson will read from their work at **Writers Here & Now** on Wednesday, November 12th at 7:00PM in the McKeldin Special Events Room.

Local Americanists will host a special edition of its regular meeting with a colloquium on Zora Neale Hurston. Loyola College professor Jean Cole will discuss Hurston as a playwright at a lunchtime symposium. Contact [Robert Levine](#) for more info.

NEW FACULTY

Richie Crider joins the Professional Writing Program with an M.A. in Professional Writing from Towson and a 10-year career as a reporter and technical editor. His “day job” is Senior Editor at Thompson Publishing Group. He’s also been editor at the FDAnews and a reporter for *The Prince George’s Post* and *The Towerlight*. Richie is teaching two sections of English 393. His mentor is Kelli Skinner.

Rebecca Holden has a Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Wisconsin, with a specialization in Women’s Writing and Feminist Literary Theory. Her dissertation title was “Shifting Worlds: Visions and Revisions of Feminism in Science Fiction Narratives.” Rebecca has published widely, has taught a wide variety of courses, and did a stint as an English instructor in Slovakia. Rebecca joins the Professional Writing Program and will be teaching two sections of English 394. Her mentor is Monica Jacobe.

Philippia Richardson comes to the Professional Writing Program with an M.A. in Publication Design. After working as a publications specialist

at the Maryland Department of Human Resources she became the Assistant Coordinator of Writing and Learning Services at the University of Baltimore, where she continues to work. Philippia is teaching one section of English 393. Her mentor is Susanna Paul.

Christina Walter joins the faculty as Assistant Professor of 20th Century British Literature, having completed her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign last spring. She is currently working on a book manuscript entitled *The Modernist Imagetext: Embodying Impersonality from Optics to Aesthetics* as well as an essay on the remains of a 'queer modern' in Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day*. This semester, she is teaching English 301 and English 425.

FACULTY NEWS

Natka Bianchini traveled to Denver in July to participate in the annual meeting for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. She coordinated and moderated several panels sponsored by the Women and Theatre Program. Natka is on the Women and Theatre Program board, as a conference planner, for two years.

Attention Takoma Park residents! **Lea Chartock** and her significant other Ross Chapple created a poster that debuted at the Takoma Park Folk Festival on September 14th. The poster, "Colors of Takoma," features a photo collage of the colorfully painted bungalows and Victorian houses in Takoma Park (you can see it displayed in the PWP office). Twenty percent of the proceeds from the sale of every poster will be donated to Historic Takoma. Posters can be ordered directly from Lea.

Tita Chico gave an invited lecture at the University of Colorado's Center for British and Irish Studies entitled "Dissecting the Coquette: Fashion and Experimental Philosophy." Chico published a related article in the Spring 2008 issue of *Comparative Drama* entitled "Gimcrack's Legacy: Sex, Wealth, and the Theater of Experimental Philosophy."

Kelly Cresap is offering a series of teleseminar discussions on the John Fowles masterwork *Daniel Martin* in connection with the national Plexus Institute. The one-hour introductory call will be Friday, October 17th at 1:00PM. [Click here for more info.](#)

Richie Crider launched a website selling unique children's books. All of the books are original and can be personalized to each child – the books contain no pictures, enabling children to interpret and illustrate the story as they see fit. [Click here for more information.](#)

Tod Jones received a publishing contract from the Philosophy Documentation Center for his edition of *The Works of Francis William Newman on Religion: A Critical Edition*, 10 vols. It will be published in a completely searchable database early in 2009. This edition includes the final version of 97 separate works of Newman, many quite scarce, with a textual apparatus on each page noting variants from earlier versions, and each volume is separately indexed.

Bob Levine's [*Dislocating Race and Nation: Episodes in Nineteenth-Century American Literary Nationalism*](#) has just been published by University of North Carolina Press. Earlier this year, UNCP published his co-edited [*Frederick Douglass and Herman Melville: Essays in Relation*](#), and UNCP will be publishing his co-edited James Whitfield reader in 2009 or early 2010.

Shirley Logan's book [*Liberating Language: Sites of Rhetorical Education in Nineteenth-Century Black America*](#) has been released from Southern Illinois University Press. The work explores diaries, newspapers, literary groups, and religious gatherings for examples of rhetorical activities.

Greg Metcalf's ritual sculptures of Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, and Warren Zevon were exhibited from September 20th to October 6th at the Decker Gallery at the Maryland Institute College of Art as part of their faculty exhibition.

Michael Olmert will give an illustrated lecture on the "The Architecture and Social History of

Outbuildings in the 18th-Century Backyard” at the [St. Michael’s Museum](#) on the Eastern Shore on October 24th at 6:00PM. Olmert also has an article in the *Colonial Williamsburg Journal* on using 18th-Century prints to unpack Stuart and Hanoverian religious belief and practice, especially related to Christmas. You can read the article [here](#). For Parents’ Weekend on campus, Olmert gave a lecture on writing natural history movies as part of the “Classrooms Without Quizzes” day at the Stamp Student Union.

Laura Rosenthal has a new article in a special issue of *Comparative Drama* devoted to “Rethinking Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Drama.” Rosenthal’s article is called “‘All injury’s forgot’: Restoration Sex Comedy and National Amnesia.”

Martha Nell Smith gave an invited lecture entitled “Enclaves: Perils and Possibilities,” at the Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University, as part of the Digital Humanities and the Disciplines Symposium on October 2nd. Later this month, Smith will give an invited lecture entitled “Dickinson’s Confederate Relations” at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for Collaboration in the Arts and the English Department at the University of Houston.

STUDENT NEWS

Andy Black is presenting a paper at the Milton 400 Conference on November 7th-8th at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. Black’s paper is entitled “‘Shameful Garrulity’: A Gorgianic Reading of *Samson Agnoistes*.”

Jimenez-Porter Writers’ House Senior **Alexandra DeArmon** won the Nicholas Allocca Memorial Award. This award was created by donations sent in memory of fiction writer and beloved UMD Professional Writing Program Instructor Nicholas Allocca shortly after his memorial service last year. The award will help fund DeArmon’s study abroad expedition to Chile this January.

UPCOMING DEADLINES and DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

The **APT meeting for Full and Associate Professors** will be held on October 15th, 9:30-11:00AM in 1119 SQH. Ballots will be due by 3:00PM on Friday, October 17th.

The **APT meeting for Full Professors** only will be held on October 27, 9:30-11:00AM in 1119 SQH. Ballots will be due by 3:00PM on Friday, October 31st.

It is time to start your applications for GRB and Research Support awards for 2009-10!

GRB Summer Award Deadline: Please submit your application to Nicole Menton by 4 p.m. on Monday, November 3. Guidelines may be found at: <http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/grb/announcement.s.htm>.

Research Support Awards Deadline: Please submit your application to Nicole Menton by 4 p.m. on Monday, December 8. Guidelines may be found at: <http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/grb/announcement.s.htm>.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

What is better than a walk in autumn along the National Mall? Helping the homeless at the same time! Richie Crider is participating in the FannieMae Help the Homeless Walkathon and he invites you to join him! The event takes place on Saturday, November 22nd on the National Mall.

To donate on behalf of his team, click [here](#). To join his team, click [here](#).

HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

As we approach the 150th anniversary of Maryland English next year, Bywords will celebrate our long legacy and the important role of the department in the university.

The School of English, History, and Mental and Moral Philosophy is one of the original seven divisions designed to enhance the intellectual lives of the agricultural students at Maryland Agricultural College.

In the summer of 1859, John M. Colby, A.M., was appointed the first Professor of Moral and Mental Philosophy, History, and English Literature. At this time, there are only six faculty positions at the college instructing the initial class of 34 students.

But before you could study Shakespeare, you had to survive Colby's ruthless grading in classes such as "Exercises in Penmanship" and "Orthography."

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The next edition of Bywords will be released on Friday, November 14th. Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplished accomplishments by Wednesday, November 12th.

We will especially want to hear about your impressions of the Cunningham lecture, the Empire and Imperialism conference, the American Studies conference in Albuquerque, and all of your other literary adventures. Please include dates, locations, and titles of papers in your news submissions.

Please also share any news regarding upcoming events happening between November 14th and the end of the year.

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