

BYWORDS

Department of English Newsletter

“The February
sunshine steepens your
boughs and tints the
buds

And swells the leaves
within.”

-William Cullen
Bryant



www.english.umd.edu/bywords

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

On March 3, GEO will hold its fifth annual interdisciplinary conference, entitled **“The Body Electric.”** There will be five panels: “Rhetorical Pulses,” “Transnational Circuits,” a plenary panel, “Live Wires and Sensual Bodies,” and “The Actor’s Charge.” Registration starts at 9 am and a reception will be held at 6:30 pm. As part of the final panel, poets in the MFA program will hold a reading in the style of The Telephone Project. You can preview their ongoing project here.

On March 9, the department will host **“Perspectives on Writing & Rhetoric: A Symposium Honoring Jeanne Fahnestock.”** As the name implies, this daylong conference is in honor of Jeanne’s long career in Rhetoric and Composition. She’ll officially retire at the end of the semester, and she’ll be sorely missed and wonderfully remembered. Jane Donawerth will make introductions, Kent Cartwright will provide a welcome, and Shirley Logan will deliver an encomium. “Perspectives” will consist of four panels: “Teaching Writing, Teaching Rhetoric” moderated by Adam Lloyd; “The Classical Tradition” moderated by Martin Camper; “Science and Popular Argument” moderated by Lindsey Dunne; and a panel entitled “Honoring Jeanne Fahnestock” moderated by Linda Macri. Many thanks to the planning committee, which includes: Linda Coleman, Jane Donawerth, Jessica Enoch, Michael Israel, Shirley Logan, Linda Macri, Karen Nelson, Leigh Ryan, Vessela Valiavitcharska, and Scott Wible. Detailed information is available on the Symposium’s webpage. Please join the department in celebrating Jeanne Fahnestock!

On March 29 and 30, Bob Levine and Edlie Wong will co-host **“Race, Law, and American Literary Studies: An Interdisciplinary Conference.”** This conference will include the following panels: “Which Law, Which Literature?,” “Law, Literature, and Race in a Re-united but not Re-constructed Nation,” “Agree to Disagree? Resolving the Logics of Law and Race,” and “The Law of Law-Breaking: The Cultural Left and the Cold War Racial State,” along with a final roundtable discussion. “Race, Law, and American Literary Studies” has culled presenting scholars from more than a dozen universities across the country and promises to be an exciting event. More information is available on the conference’s webpage.

There will be a joint reception and shared lecture with a related conference, “Born in the USA: The Politics of Birthright Citizenship in Historical Perspective.” Find more information here.

**Please submit your syllabi
using our online system!**

Faculty, Lecturers, and TAs teaching ENGL and/or CMLT courses at the 200-level or above:

If you are teaching, please submit a copy of your syllabus for SPRING 2012 as soon as possible. We would like you to submit your syllabus using the following webpage:

<http://www.english.umd.edu/administration/faculty-staff/syllabi>

This will allow everyone access who needs this information (including Isabella). We use these copies to answer inquiries from current students who need to finalize their class schedules, and former students needing transfer credits. Also, your syllabi on file have been a big help to new T.A.s when they’re in the process of developing their own syllabi.

Also, if you’re faculty or a lecturer through the MEO, please submit office hours for SPRING 2012 on the above section of the department website.

Your cooperation is very much appreciated.
Isabella

Notes on book ordering:

The University Book Center:
<http://www.umcp.bkstore.com>
click on “Faculty,” then on “Register”
(if it’s your first time)

Maryland Book Exchange:
<http://www.marylandbook.com>
click on “Faculty Information,” then on “Faculty Adoptions Form”

FYI, faculty must submit acknowledgement with the state’s Textbook Affordability Law.

Events from The Center For Literary and Comparative Studies:

LGBT Lecture Series: Kara Keeling "The Queer Place of Space: Afrofuturism and Speculations on 'Africa'"

Thursday, March 1

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Ulrich Recital Hall

David Simon in Conversation

Thursday, March 1

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Gildenhorn Recital Hall, Clarice Smith

Medieval and Early Modern Studies:

Meredith Gill, "Religious Orthodoxy and Fallen Angels in Cinquecento Siena"

Monday, March 5

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

2110 Taliaferro Hall

"He said" / "She says": A Workshop in Effective Quotation; Call the Writing Center at 301-405-3785 to reserve your seat.

Wednesday, March 7

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

1203 Tawes Hall

Medieval and Early Modern Studies: David A. Boruchoff, "The Three Greatest Inventions of Modern Times: The Cultural Geography of an Idea, 1499-1620"

Friday, March 9

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

2120 FS Key Hall

Writers Here & Now: Yusef Komunyakaa & Jaimy Gordon

Wednesday, March 14

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Ulrich Recital Hall

Alumni Book Group: William Shakespeare, "Julius Caesar"

Thursday, March 15

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

2115 Tawes Hall

Local Americanists: Sean X. Goudie, "Caribbean American Regionalism"

Friday, April 6

2:30 pm - 5:00 pm

2115 Tawes Hall

[Further information is available on the Center's webpage.](#)

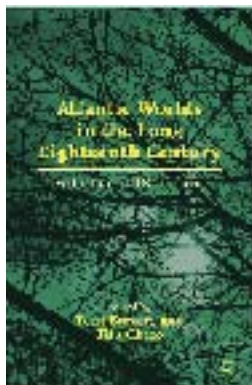
[Please check the Department Calendar for more news.](#)

(NEWS)

FACULTY NEWS

Ann Bracken published an essay in the Social Justice issue of the *Little Patuxent Review*. The essay, "Crafting a Bridge to Healing," explores the stories of two veterans and how they use expressive arts to heal from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Military Sexual Trauma. Drew Cameron of the "Combat Paper Project" works primarily with male veterans who use their cut-up uniforms to make paper for journals and other original art. Regina Vasquez of the "Combat Fatigues Clothesline Project" works with female veterans to tell their trauma stories using their military blouses as a canvas. Both veterans have exhibited their work at military bases and art galleries across the United States.

Vin Carretta has recently been interviewed about his new biography of Phillis Wheatley. You can read the interview [here](#). He has also published a brief account of Wheatley's life, which you can check out [here](#).



Tita Chico has co-edited a collection of essays with Toni Bowers (University of Pennsylvania). The collection, called *Atlantic Worlds in the Long Eighteenth Century: Seduction and Sentiment*, will be available in March. *Atlantic Worlds* situates the late 17th through early 19th Century Atlantic as "not one but many places, sites of unprecedented movement, suffering, expectation, risk, dread, and desire," according to Tita. The 13-essay collection traces stories of seduction and sentiment and the ways they shaped readers' and writers' understandings of radically changing perceptions of difference.

Atlantic Worlds has been reviewed by Len Tennenhouse (Duke University), who calls it "invaluable", praising its "challeng[e] [to] old Atlantic narratives," and claiming it "opens the question as to why the Atlantic world should have been the unique site where seduction and sentiment came together both in shaping the New World and in re-mapping the social geography of the Old World." And Beth Tobin (University of Georgia) writes that the book "confirm[s] imaginative literature's central role in the ongoing project of rethinking nation-based cultural history."

Michael Dirda's latest book, *On Conan Doyle*, is shortlisted for the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Award in criticism/biography. It is also shortlisted for the Agatha Award in nonfiction from Malice Domestic. The winners will be announced on April 26 and April 28.

Neil Fraistat was featured in *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* "My Daily Read" on February 24. The interview focuses on Neil's daily reading practices, and you can check it out [here](#).

(NEWS cont.)

FACULTY NEWS cont.

Jocelyn Heath's interview with Natasha Trethewey will appear March 1 on the website of *Smartish Pace*, for which she's an Assistant Editor.

Walter Knorr's student Samantha Roman has brought before the University Senate a proposal she wrote in Walter's ENGL395 class. Samantha is president of the mental health advocacy group Active Minds' campus chapter. Her proposal would allow students being treated for mental health disorders to withdraw from a class after the semester's end.

Ted Leinwand's sixth essay in his series on poets reading Shakespeare, "Charles Olson after Shakespeare" (based on Olson's unpublished Shakespeare manuscript), has just come out in *New England Review*. A short piece on "The Shakespearean Perverse" will appear soon in *The Yale Review*.

Carla Peterson will be discussing (and signing) her book *Black Gotham: A Family History of African Americans in Nineteenth-Century New York City* (Yale UP, 2011) on Wednesday, March 7 at 4:30pm in McKeldin's Special Events Room (6137). More info is available [here](#).

Martha Nell Smith is pleased to announce that Harvard University Press has begun a project, *Emily Dickinson: Digital Edition*, something she first dreamed nearly 20 years ago (in 1993). Smith will serve on the Advisory Board. Leslie Morris, Curator of Modern Books and Manuscripts at the Houghton Library, will serve as General Editor and will work with Smith and a small team of advisors/editors. The [holdings of the Houghton Library](#) constitute the core of this project, which will extend to other constellations of Dickinson materials. EDDE's first publication is scheduled to appear in 2013.

STUDENT NEWS

Amanda Visconti spoke on a panel about the place of the Digital Humanities in schools of information at the 2012 iConference in Toronto on February 8.

STUDENT NEWS cont.



Amanda also co-organized [THATCamp Games](#), a conference on gaming and the humanities that took place in Tawes from January 19 to January 22. The event brought together one hundred game designers and researchers including professors, librarians, undergraduate and graduate students, and members of the games industry, who discussed theories of gaming, game

design, and games in learning and also produced documentation and game prototypes. Topics included creating narrative-heavy puzzles, teaching complex literature through alternate reality games, and video game criticism.

Thankful, as always,
and looking forward to Spring,
Catherine

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*The next edition of Bywords
will be released March 27.
Please send us any and all updates
on new publications and
accomplishments by *March 20*.*

*Please include dates, locations, and titles of
papers/lectures/etc. in your news
submissions.*

Bywords e-mail: englweb@umd.edu

*Stay tuned to
www.english.umd.edu
for more news!*

Photograph: "Tracery" March 16, 2009, Jenny Downing

