

## BYWORDS

Department of English Newsletter

“O, wind, If Winter  
comes, can Spring be  
far behind?”

-Percy Bysshe  
Shelley



[www.english.umd.edu/bywords](http://www.english.umd.edu/bywords)

## THE MARSHALL GROSSMAN LECTURE SERIES



The campaign to rename *Renaissance Reckonings* is well under way. Sometime in the near future, the group will become known as *The Grossman Lecture Series*, in honor of our late colleague Marshall Grossman. Although Marshall passed away in March of 2011, his spirit of intellectual acuity, scholarly engagement, and rigorous debate is still very much alive.

Through renaming the lecture

series, the department hopes to remember Marshall and pass his legacy on to students and faculty yet to come. The committee consists of our own Kent Cartwright, Theresa Coletti, and Ted Leinwand, as well as faculty members from universities across the country and beyond. Thirteen scholars outside the university have committed their time and energy to the fund, and their information is also available on the [webpage](#). Additionally, many thanks go out to Karen Nelson, who has spent many hours seeing this project along.

The following excerpt is from the [Lecture Series' webpage](#) (written by Karen Nelson): “Our goal is to raise at least \$25,000 in order to establish an endowment account. Its income would be used to support the Department’s long-standing Renaissance Reckonings speaker series. Should we be unable to establish a true endowment, funds received would be used to set up an operating account to offset the costs of the lecture series. In either case, the Renaissance Reckonings speaker series would be renamed as the Grossman Lecture Series to honor Marshall.” As a thrilling update, however, the department has received roughly \$16,000 since early December. This is staggering news, and it is a complete testament to the breadth of Marshall’s influence on his academic community, and on wider scholarly world.

We’re well on our way. But, if you’d like to give, please contact [Karen Nelson](#) or, better yet, visit the [Grossman Memorial Fund webpage](#). All the information you need is there, about giving online or how/where/to whom to send a check.

**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 2011 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*:

Norman Steinberg, "Writing Comedy for TV and the Movies," Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm, Ulrich Recital Hall

Karen Nelson, "Women and War: Mapping Early Modern Conventions of Representation," Monday, February 6, 2012 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm, 2120 Key Hall

Digital Dialogues: Julia Flanders, "Small TEI Projects on a Large Scale: TAPAS," Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm 2115 Tawes

A Colloquy with British Playwright Roy Williams, Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Ulrich Recital Hall

A reading by the Petrou Reader in Residence, Sarah Blake, author of *The Postmistress*, on Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 6:30 pm, Ulrich Recital Hall

LGBT Lecture Series: Nayan Shah "Stranger Intimacy, Transience, and Unsettling History", Monday, February 13, 2012, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Ulrich Recital Hall

Digital Dialogues: Mike Witmore, "Shakespeare from the Waist Down," Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm, 2115 Tawes Hall

Alumni Book Club: *Madame Bovary*, Thursday, February 16, 2012, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm, 2115 Tawes Hall, (recommended edition: Penguin, translated by Geoffrey Wall. ISBN: 978-0-14-044912-9)

Writers Here & Now: Catherine Barnett & Colm Tóibín, Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Ulrich Recital Hall

Transatlantic Talk: Eliza Richards, Friday, February 24, 2012, 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

LGBT Lecture Series: Kara Keeling "The Queer Place of Space: Afrofuturism and Speculations on 'Africa'," Thursday, March 1, 2012, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Ulrich Recital Hall

David Simon in Conversation, Thursday, March 1, 2012, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Gildenhorn Recital Hall, Clarice Smith Center

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

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

## ( NEWS )

### Theresa Coletti Named 2012-2013 Distinguished Scholar-Teacher



The University has named Theresa Coletti a 2012-2013 Distinguished Scholar-Teacher. The DST award is reserved for tenured faculty who "personify [the university's] image of the professorate," according to the University's website. And as the name suggests, the DST award uniquely acknowledges Theresa's important work in the classroom, as well as her scholarship. As a professor, she is known as smart, thoughtful, thorough, and, above all, constructive. On the research side, she is the author of numerous articles and two books,

the most recent being *Mary Magdalene and the Drama of Saints: Theater, Gender, and Religion in Late Medieval England*. The eminent annual publication, *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England*, called Theresa's book "a masterful report on the cultural meanings of one medieval performance, but also a compelling account of how such performances matter for literary and cultural history."

When asked about receiving the DST award, Theresa responded that of course it was "a great honor." However, she generously went on to say, "I'm one of many in the department, most recently Martha Nell Smith, but also Bob Levine, Jane Donawerth, Jack Bryer, Linda Kauffman, and David Wyatt." She also listed others who've left or retired. Asked about receiving an award for her own work, Theresa showed true collegial spirit and pride in the intellectual community the department is creating. "It's nice to be recognized, because I'm in a department which I think is full of distinguished scholars and teachers—and I really believe that."

Stay tuned for information on Theresa Coletti's upcoming DST Lecture. And many congratulations to Theresa!

### FACULTY NEWS

**Jonathan Auerbach** won a 2012-13 semester-long Research and Scholarship Award from the Graduate school for "Progressivism and Propaganda: Managing Public Opinion, 1896-1934."

**Maud Casey** received a residency fellowship to spend March at [Villa Hellebosch](#), a residency for writers and translators, in Vollezele, Belgium. Her essay, "A Stubborn Desire," will appear in the forthcoming issue of *A Public Space*.

# (NEWS cont.)

## FACULTY NEWS cont.

**Vin Carretta's** recent presentations and talks include having been the respondent on a panel on colonial Georgia at the American Studies Association meeting in Baltimore in October 2011, and having given a public lecture, "Phillis Wheatley: Biography of a Genius in Bondage," at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston in November 2011. In February 2012 Vin's speaking on "The Biographical Challenge of the Early Black Atlantic: the Case of Phillis Wheatley," at the Georgia Center for the Book, Atlanta; "Biography and the Early Black Atlantic," at the Georgia Colloquium in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Literature, at the University of Georgia; and on Phillis Wheatley, at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Sunday, February 26. Finally, Vin's recently published biography of Phillis Wheatley is one of six books reviewed and recommended in the February issue of *Essence* magazine for Black History Month.

**Michael Collier's** poem, "Robert Wilson," was read by Garrison Keiller on PBS's "The Writer's Almanac" on December 17, 2011. It is available [here](#).

**Robin Earnest** was faculty advisor for Sarah Mostafa. Sara was the BSOS winter commencement speaker and former PWP UTA. Robin also published a children's book that takes the novel approach of encouraging educators to use the jokes kids love to teach basic writing skills like spelling, grammar, and rhyme. The book's website supports the work with writing worksheets.

Robin also served as editor for local author Gary "Chris" Christopherson's new children's book *Angel, Thriving Creator of Artful Things*. In addition, Robin's daughter Sara designed the inside jacket. The book is available for purchase on Amazon.com or as a free download at [www.GChris.com](http://www.GChris.com).

**Jessica Enoch** won a summer RASA award, for "Claiming Space: Feminist Rhetorical Investigations of Educational Geographies."

## FACULTY NEWS cont.

**Mark Fitzgerald** has been invited to read from his book of poems, *By Way of Dust and Rain* (Cinnamon Press, 2010), at several events. On January 15 he read at the Bowery Poetry Club in New York City. On January 19 he read at the Takoma Park Community Center as part of the Third Thursday Series. He has also been invited to read at the IOTA Poetry Series with Tarfia Faizullah on February 12 at 6 pm at the IOTA Club and Café in Arlington. For more information, contact Mark at [mfitzge5@umd.edu](mailto:mfitzge5@umd.edu).

**Oliver Gaycken** has three articles that will appear soon. The most recent one is drawn largely from his job talk; it entitled "The Secret Life of Plants: Visualizing Vegetative Movement, 1880-1903," *Early Popular Visual Culture*. 10, no. 1 (February 2012): 51-69. The other two articles treat a similar topic—the question of how cinema has been heralded as an educational device—from the perspectives of film industry professionals and scientists. The one is "The Cinema of the Future: Visions of the Medium as Modern Educator," and the other is "'The Swarming of Life': Moving Images, Education, and Views through the Microscope." You can find out more about them [here](#) and [here](#), respectively.

**Zahara Heckscher's** article "How to Choose a Graduate Degree Program for Your International Career" was published at [TransitionsAbroad.com](http://TransitionsAbroad.com). In November, Zahara facilitated a Writing Staycation at the Writer's Center in Bethesda. Danuta Hinc was one of the lunch speakers, sharing experiences and encouragement based on the process of writing and publishing her novel.

**Joe Hall's** new collaborative book of poetry, *The Container Store Vol. 1*, will be published by SpringGun Press in March 2012. Publishing Genius Press will also publish his chapbook, *Post Nativity*, in February.

# (NEWS cont.)

## FACULTY NEWS cont.

**Danuta Hinc** gave several readings and talks in November. She spoke on “Writing Life” at the East Columbia Library on Nov. 1, on “Modus Vivendi in To Kill the Other” at a Howard Community College Seminar on November 8, on “The Unbearable Heaviness of Words: Who Makes My Choices?” at a Howard Community College Seminar on November 15, and on “Marek’s Story and the Shipyard Workers Uprising in the 70s in Poland” at Cyclops Book Store in Baltimore on November 16.

**Matthew Kirschenbaum’s** lecture at the New York Public Library, “Stephen King’s Wang: The Literary History of Word Processing,” was covered in depth by the New York Times on December 26, 2011 with a follow-up story running on January 10. The talk was drawn from his forthcoming book, *Track Changes: A Literary History of Word Processing*, under contract to Harvard University Press and due out next year. Additional media coverage of the project has included Slate magazine and the Guardian;

Matt has also been interviewed on WYPR’s Maryland Morning show (listen [here](#)). On a Guggenheim Fellowship for the year, he will present a lecture on this material later this spring as part of the Center’s Works in Progress series.

**Robert Levine** won a 2012-13 semester-long Research and Scholarship Awards from the Graduate school for “The Lives of Frederick Douglass.” However, Bob declined the award because he was also awarded a 2012-13 senior fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for his “Lives of Frederick Douglass.”

Bob’s new edition of *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, 1820-1865*, 8th edition, has just been published. He’s also the Associate General Editor of the other 4 volumes of the anthology, and he’s the new General Editor of the 9th edition, scheduled for publication in 2017. He has an essay on James Fenimore Cooper and temporality in *The Oxford Handbook of Nineteenth-Century American Literature* (2012), edited by Russ Castronovo. This spring he’s giving invited talks on Frederick Douglass at UC-Irvine and Wake Forest.

## FACULTY NEWS cont.

**Marilee Lindemann** was elected to the Board of Directors of Equality Maryland, the state’s major LGBT civil rights organization. At EQMD’s annual meeting on January 8, she was elected to serve as secretary of the board’s Executive Committee. She is looking forward to working with the organization as Maryland tries (again!) to become the seventh state (along with the District of Columbia) to offer marriage equality to its LGBT citizens. Check out EQMD’s website [here](#).

**Peter Mallios** won a 2012-13 semester-long Research and Scholarship Award from the Graduate School for “On Foreign Grounds: Reimagining American Literature.”

**Randy Ontiveros** recently published a review of *Carmen Lomas Garza* (2010), a new book by art historian Constance Cortez on the celebrated Texas painter named in the title. His review appears in the current issue of *Latino Studies* and can be accessed from a UMD computer or proxy by clicking [here](#).

**Brian Richardson’s** articles appear in three collections that have just been published: “Unnatural Voices in Ulysses: Joyce’s Postmodern Modes of Narration,” in *Strange Voices in Narrative Fiction*; “What Is Unnatural Narrative Theory?” in *Unnatural Narratives – Unnatural Narratology*; and “U. S. Ethnic and Postcolonial Fiction: Toward a Collectivist Poetics” in *Analyzing World Fiction: New Horizons in Narrative Theory*. His article, “Linearity and its Discontents” was reprinted in Volume 144 of the *Gale collection of Short Story Criticism*. A Chinese translation of his essay, “A Theory of Narrative Beginnings” appears in a Chinese journal this month.

Brian also gave a talk on “Unnatural Narratives” at the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present conference in Pittsburgh in October and, with Jan Alber and Christian Moraru, spoke on “Unnatural Stories and Temporalities” at Project Narrative, Ohio State University, November 2011. On January 15 he concluded his term as president of the International Society for the Study of Narrative.

**Rebecca J. Ritzel**, a lecturer and local arts journalist, was a guest on WAMU’s Kojo Nnamdi Show on Dec. 14. Along with her fellow Washington Post contributor Celia Wren, Rebecca discussed holiday theater and dance offerings in the DC area.

# (NEWS cont.)

## FACULTY NEWS cont.

**Laura Rosenthal** won a 2012-13 semester-long Research and Scholarship Award from the Graduate school for “Cosmopolites: Men of the World and Sophisticated Ladies in Eighteenth-Century Theater and Print Culture.”

**Eddie Wong** won a 2012-13 semester-long Research and Scholarship Award from the Graduate school for “From Emancipation to Exclusion: Contract, Citizens, and Coolies.”

## STUDENT NEWS

**Lindsay Dunne** and **Nathan Kelber** each received the QCB Travel Award for dissertation researchers. Lindsay will be traveling to Minnesota to research Sigurd F. Olson and the founding of Voyageurs National Park as part of her dissertation on the literature that was instrumental in National Park campaigns.

**Zach Hess** is entering his second semester of teaching freshmen writing as an Adjunct Professor at Capitol College.

**Lisa Rhody** was awarded the MITH Winnemore Dissertation Fellowship for Spring 2012.

**Tod Jones** recently published in paperback editions, through The Francis William Newman Society, volumes 8 and 9 of *The Works of Francis William Newman on Religion: A Critical Edition*. These, as well as volume 1, are now available through Barnes and Noble. [Vol. 8: Essays, Articles, and Addresses, Part I](#) and [Vol. 9: Essays, Articles, and Addresses, Part II: \(1873-1889\)](#)

A new edition of Volume 2, *The Soul: Its Sorrows and Its Aspirations*, introduced by Tod, is currently being prepared for publication.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Katherine E. Young's** translation of “Yuri Gagarin Was a Great Russian Poet” by Inna Kabysh was awarded a share of the 2011 Joseph Brodsky/Stephen Spender Prize for poetry translated from Russian.

## Upcoming Conferences

March 9, 2012: “Perspectives on Writing & Rhetoric: A Symposium Honoring Jeanne Fahnestock.” Find more information [here](#).

March 29-30, 2012: “Race, Law, and American Literary Studies: An Interdisciplinary Conference.” This particular conference now has a joint reception and shared lecture with a related conference (below) sponsored by the Center for the History of the New America; the reception will run from 5:30 to 7, with the talk by Eric Foner now scheduled in Ulrich Recital Hall, beginning at 7:00 pm. Find more information [here](#).

March 29-30: “Born in the USA: The Politics of Birthright Citizenship in Historical Perspective.” Find more information [here](#).

April 1, 2012: “International Interdisciplinary Conference on Classical Greek and Roman Literature: Gendered Perspectives in Reading & Reception.” Sponsored by Classics, ADVANCE, CAAS, and English Find more information [here](#).

Welcome back and Happy January.

Thank you for reading and submitting for this jam-packed edition. I hope the semester is beginning beautifully for all.

Thank you, as always,  
Catherine

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

*The next edition of Bywords will be released February 23. Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplishments by \*February 16\*.*

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

**Bywords e-mail: [englweb@umd.edu](mailto:englweb@umd.edu)**

*Stay tuned to  
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**Photograph: “Snow and Trees” © 2008, Alicia Nijdam**