

BYWORDS

Department of English Newsletter

“ A professor is someone who talks in someone else's sleep. ”

-W.H. Auden



THE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES FIVE NEW PROFESSORS

Welcome (and welcome back) all. It's the start of another semester here in Tawes and a slew of amazing new PhD, MA, and MFA students have joined the ranks. We are all excited and honored to welcome five new professors to the department. The following are brief introductions to the new faculty. (See [the department's website](#) for more information.)

Dr. Jessica Enoch joins us as Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Composition. Professor Enoch received her PhD from Pennsylvania State University in 2003. Professor Enoch is the author of *Refiguring Rhetorical Education: Women Teaching African American, Native American, and Chicano/a Students, 1865-1911* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2008). This fall she will teach "ENGL458R: Literature by Women after 1800: History of Women's Rhetoric."

Dr. Oliver Gaycken joins us as Assistant Professor of Film. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 2005. His book, *Devices of Curiosity: Early Cinema and Popular Science*, is forthcoming from Oxford University Press. This fall he is teaching two film studies courses: "ENGL329D: Early Cinema" and "ENGL245: Film Form and Culture."

Dr. Melanie Kill also joins the English Department this fall as Assistant Professor in Rhetoric and Composition. She has arrived from Texas Christian University, where, from 2008-11, she taught English and Women's Studies. Kill is teaching "ENGL488A: Web Authoring: Text, Image, and Design" and one section of "ENGL301: Critical Methods in the Study of Literature."

Dr. Jesse Oak Taylor joins the department as Visiting Assistant Professor and ACLS/Mellon Fellow. Dr. Taylor received his PhD in 2010 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His co-written book, *Empowerment on an Unstable Planet: From Seeds of Human Energy to a Scale of Global Change*, is due out from Oxford University Press this October. Professor Taylor is teaching "ENGL456: The 19th Century English Novel: England, Empire, and the Great British Novel."

Dr. Scott Wible joins the English Department as Director of Professional Writing and Associate Professor in Rhetoric and Composition. Professor Wible received his PhD from Pennsylvania State University (2006). His book, *Language Policy Work in Composition Studies*, is forthcoming from Southern Illinois University Press. Professor Wible is working in the department's busy Professional Writing Program.

Please join us in welcoming Professors Enoch, Gaycken, Kill, Taylor, and Wible!

www.english.umd.edu/bywords

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 FALL 2011 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 FALL 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.

News from The Center For Literary and Comparative Studies:

Sarah Blake is the Bebe Koch Petrou Writer in Residence for the fall semester. Her most recent novel is *The Postmistress*. For more information on her work, you can visit <http://www.sarahblakebooks.com/>.

Michael Olmert has a dynamite line-up of rehearsed play readings, thanks to the students of his English 379M class. The complete list of performances is available at www.english.umd.edu/table_reads. The first of those events is Wednesday, September 21 with "White Chameleon," a 1991 play by Christopher Hampton. The second is October 5 and is "Bacchae" by Euripedes.

Local Americanists have a number of lectures scheduled for the fall, with Bryan Wagner discussing "The Tar Baby" Friday, September 23, and Kortha Mitchell presenting "Living with Lynching" on October 19.

The International Film Series will begin Friday, September 30 with a screening of Jorge Preloran's "Imaginerio."

Renaissance Reckonings has its first lecture on Friday, October 7, by Sarah McNamer.

The first **book launch** of the semester is scheduled for October 5, when we celebrate Orrin Wang's recent publication *Romantic Sobriety: Sensation, Revolution, Commodification, History* (Johns Hopkins UP, 2011).

The **alumni book group** met to discuss the first year book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, on September 15, 2011. The books slated for the next meeting on Thursday, October 20, are *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket* (1838), by Edgar Allan Poe and/or *Pym: A Novel*, by Mat Johnson (2011). Bob Levine will serve as the moderator for that discussion. All are welcome to join!

Sangeeta Ray is organizing a terrific conference for early November, "Rethinking World Literature/Other World Literatures," so people should make plans to attend those sessions (and send their students) on November 3 and 4, 2011.

Bill Cohen is directing the Critical Theory Colloquium, and it should be a vibrant seminar this fall. The next meeting will be Friday, September 23, featuring Liz DePriest, a PhD candidate in the department.

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

[Also, further information is available on the Center's webpage.](#)

(NEWS)

FACULTY NEWS

Kelly Cresap will provide an introduction to John Fowles' novel *Daniel Martin* for the Takoma Park book club on October 5. The club will continue to discuss the book on alternating Wednesdays through the end of November (Oct. 19, Nov. 2, Nov. 16, and Nov. 30). The location is the Takoma Park Library, 101 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Richard Cross gave a paper, "Boundary Crossings: Louise Erdrich's *Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse*," at the annual conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Amerikastudien in Regensburg, Germany on June 18.

Jeanne Fahnestock's new book, *Rhetorical Style: The Uses of Language in Persuasion*, was published by Oxford University Press in September of 2011.

Pamela Gerhardt had [her story](#) about men and the future of assisted living published in The Washington Post on August 1.

Zahara Heckscher will be teaching a week-long, non-residential Writing Staycation Retreat (10:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.) at the Writer's Center in Bethesda from November 7 through 11. Email her for more information (zaharah@umd.edu).

Danuta Hinc is working on her second book, a collection of short stories based on family history. During the summer she traveled to Poland, where she visited the sites of some of those stories. Danuta was interviewed recently by *The Baltimore Sun* about her first novel, *To Kill the Other*, which was published in March.

Connie Inukai appeared on August 14 on radio station 105.9 to discuss plain writing with host Tom Grooms and fellow guest Dr. Annetta Cheek, the Director of The Center for Plain Language.

Michael Israel's book, *The Grammar of Polarity: Pragmatics, Sensitivity, and the Logic of Scales*, (Cambridge) came out in May 2011.

Bob Levine's *A Companion to American Literary Studies*, co-edited with Caroline Levander, was just published by Wiley-Blackwell. Among the highlights of the 33 essays in the volume is Carla Peterson's "Untangling Genealogy's Tangled Skins: Alexander Crummell, James McCune Smith, and Nineteenth-Century Black Literary Traditions."

Marilee Lindemann and **Martha Nell Smith** gave a plenary address--"Cather, Dickinson, and Sexuality"--at the Cather International Seminar 2011, Smith College, June 20-25, 2011.

John Mancini published two nonfiction essays this summer about the rock band Phish. His contest-winning essays appeared on <http://www.jambands.com/> and <http://phish.net/>.

(NEWS cont.)

FACULTY NEWS cont.

Joan Mooney wrote a white paper on various water issues (including infrastructure, supply, and pollution) for the National Association of Realtors, which has posted it on [their website](#).

Howard Norman's memoir, *I Hate To Leave This Beautiful Place*, is being edited and will be published by Houghton-Mifflin-Harcourt January 2013, as will his Japan travelogue, *Travel With Ghost and Ghost-To-Be*. Howard is curating an exhibit of Turkish-born Sedat Pakay's photographs of James Baldwin in Turkey, Los Angeles, and Paris in the 1970's; he is editing the catalogue for the Northwest African American Museum in Seattle---the exhibit begins in May 2012. Howard is also a judge for the prestigious Giller Prize for Canadian fiction. His novel *What Is Left the Daughter* was published this year in Italian, French, Japanese, and German.

Michael Olmert gave three short lectures on Harold Pinter's language. They were used to promote the Shakespeare Theatre's production of "Old Times" in May and June. They are available here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7S3alfLrXE>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ParemdPxQQ

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkR4cJDTanI>

Carla Peterson will be a featured author at the National Book Festival on the Mall, Sunday September 25. The book signing is at 1pm, and the talk is at 3:45pm in the History and Biography tent.

Stanley Plumly's poem "In Answer to Amy's Question What's a Pickereel" was Garrison Keillor's poem of the Day for August 21, 2011.

Brian Richardson delivered a plenary lecture, "Resituating the Present: Contemporary Fiction and the History of Unnatural Narratives," at The Contemporary: An International Conference of Literature and the Arts, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, in June. His article, "Nabokov's Experiments and the Question of Fictionality," was published in *Storyworlds* 3. A co-authored article, "Unnatural Narratives, Unnatural Narratology: Beyond Mimetic Models," was translated into Danish and published in *Kultur og Klasse*. His article, "The Implied Author: Back From the Grave or Simply Dead Again?" introduced a special issue of *Style* on the subject, which he guest-edited. He was interviewed for an article on new topics in narrative theory in the Italian journal, *Enthymema*.

FACULTY NEWS cont.

Rebecca Ritzel received full funding from Canadian government sources to attend "Liszt's Legacies," a musicology conference hosted by Carleton University and the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival. The conference and festival marked the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth. When she wasn't in sessions, Rebecca enjoyed touring Canada's capital and attending concerts.

Joanne Roby published "Turning Catholic: Peele's *The Battle of Alcazar* and Captain Thomas Stukeley" in *Parergon* this summer.

Jason Rudy published an essay this summer called "Manifest Prosody," in *Victorian Poetry*, 49 (Summer 2011), 253-66. This essay is the first piece of his next book project on Victorian emigrant poetry.

Martha Nell Smith was voted Vice President of the Emily Dickinson International Society (EDIS) at its annual meeting in late July in Amherst. There she also gave a talk, "Who Was Dickinson's 'Master'? (or Is That a Good Question?)"

Tom Zaniello's essay, "Our Future Tends to be Prehistoric: Science Fiction and Robert Smithson," originally published in *Arts Magazine*, has been translated into French in *Art et science fiction: La Ballard Connection* (Geneva: Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, 2011).

Tom also published a digital essay, "Globalization, Digital Films, and New Directions in documentary," in *Mediascape*, UCLA's Journal of Cinema and Media Studies (Winter 2011).

ALUMNI NEWS

Hannah Baker just received her PhD from the University of York, UK, with a dissertation entitled: "'I am made by her, and undone': Mother-son Relationships in Confessional and Post-confessional Lyric." Hannah took her BA (2004) and MFA (2006) from our English Department. She teaches at Xavier University of New Orleans.

(NEWS cont.)

STAFF NEWS

Leigh Ryan, along with **Lisa Zimerelli**, presented a preconference workshop, "Giving Students a Voice to Shape Pedagogy," at the European Association for the Teaching of Academic Writing conference in Limerick, Ireland, June 29-July 1. Leigh also served as the US judge to help select three European writing center tutors for a keynote presentation, "Peer Tutoring: Through the Eyes of the Student Tutor."

Leigh also presented the keynote address, "From 'What is a Writing Center?' to 'What's New in the Writing Center?'" at the Mary Washington University Writing Intensive Institute on May 20. She also gave a workshop on "Designing Effective Assignment Sheets."

STUDENT NEWS

Catherine Bayly's poem, "Death Is No Thing Where You Are Not," was published in the Summer 2011 Issue of the literary magazine *Exhale*.

Alexandra Calaway's short story, "Mother Mary," will be published in the literary magazine *Visionary Tongue*. She was recently hired as an editor for *The Washington Pastime*.

Dawn Dorland Perry had her "Why I Write" essay published in June on the Grub Street blog and in July won The Drum's flash fiction contest with her short short, "Do Us Part."

Joshua Lavender's poem "The Guest" is forthcoming in *Able Muse* (print edition), Winter 2011. "The Death of Auntie Bellum's Attic" is also forthcoming in *Southern Poetry Anthology V: Georgia*. Ed. Paul Ruffin and William Wright. Huntsville: Texas Review Press (Texas A&M UP Consortium, Sam Houston State U), 2012.

STUDENT NEWS cont.

Sara Schotland's article, "Breaking Out of the Rooster Coop: Violent Crime in Aravind Adiga's *White Tiger* and Richard Wright's *Native Son*," appeared in the April 2011 issue of *Comparative Literature Studies*. Another article "Rape Victims as Mockingbirds: A Law and Linguistics Analysis of Atticus Finch's Cross Examination in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*," appeared in the May issue of the *Buffalo Journal of Gender, Law and Social Policy*.

A NEW LOOK FOR 2115

Welcome back! As you roam the halls, please stop by the department's new Faculty and Staff Lounge in Tawes 2115. It's a larger, improved space for the many gatherings we host. The room now has a separate kitchen and a more streamlined system for event set-up and take-down. Also, while the room is still equipped with state of the art technology, the ambiance is far less utilitarian.

After you've taken a look, take a moment more to stop by the Main English Office and thank Kent Cartwright, Isabella Moulton, and Kevin Rimmell (among others) for their tireless effort and meticulous planning of our new space. Over the summer, I witnessed our staff's thoughtful and imaginative attention to detail--drafting plans, dreaming up arrangements, and shuttling often massive pieces of furniture or appliances through the halls of Tawes. Watching the project come to fruition has been really exciting--and the MEO staff deserves our sincerest gratitude.

-Catherine Bayly

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*The next edition of Bywords will be released October 20. Please send us any and all updates on new publications and accomplishments by *October 13*.*

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!*