

# Department of ENGLISH

## Newsletter

Spring 2010

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### Editor

Amy Gates

### Contributors

Vainis Aleksa, PhD  
Jeffrey Gore, PhD  
Neil O'Callaghan

Faculty, Staff, and Students  
of the  
Department of English

### Contact

University of Illinois at Chicago  
English Department (MC 162)  
601 South Morgan Street  
2027 University Hall  
Chicago, Illinois 60607

www.uic.edu/depts/engl/  
Tel: (312) 413-2200  
Fax: (312) 413-1005

## Message from the Department Head

Dear UIC English Colleagues, Students, Alumni, and Friends,

This year's newsletter reports on the many great achievements of the UIC English community. Over the past year, faculty, students, and alumni have been making their mark across the world with fellowships, conference appearances, and groundbreaking publications. And as the "alumni news" section in these pages shows, former students are doing many great things—from serving in the Air Force to taking leading roles in academic programs—with their English degrees from UIC. As always, we welcome and encourage your thoughts, reactions, and further news, which you may send to [englishnewsletteruic@gmail.com](mailto:englishnewsletteruic@gmail.com).

I want to shine a spotlight this year on the achievements of students in our department—students who have been sharing their work at conferences and publishing their work in magazines and journals across the country. The work that they do not only enhances their own careers but also adds luster to the reputation of UIC; our current students, like our alumni, shape the future of the university.

As we celebrate these achievements, I want to underline the importance of our continued support for them. Both graduate and undergraduate students realize many of their goals as young scholars and professionals through the generosity of alumni and friends of the department. It is only by receiving that generous support, for example, that students can obtain funds for research trips or conferences, or have their accomplishments honored with prizes that support their expenses while in school. This kind of support for realizing student ambitions has become increasingly important in today's competitive job market and challenging economic conditions.

The Anne Hopewell Selby Fund, named after the late Anne Hopewell Selby, Assistant Professor in the English department, supports many facets of student support, and I invite you to make a contribution to the fund. To facilitate donations, we have included a tear-out remittance form on page 9; a return envelope is enclosed for those receiving the newsletter in hard copy. You can also make a contribution to this or any fund

by visiting the department website at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/giving/giving.html>. Contributions at any level are greatly appreciated, and I thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Mark E. Canuel  
Professor and Head



UIC alumnus **Paul Burton** (BA, English) and PhD student **James Tadd Adcox** visit at the Annual Alumni Reading.

## Department Colloquia Draw Record Attendance

The English Department continues its tradition of Friday afternoon colloquia, with the 2009-2010 programs attracting large crowds. The colloquia provide an opportunity for UIC faculty, graduate students, and invited guests from outside the UIC community to present their current work and engage in spirited scholarly conversations. During the 2009-2010 academic year, the following have presented or are scheduled to present their work at the colloquia: UIC faculty members Professors **Jennifer Ashton** and **Christian Messenger**, Poet-in-Residence **Joshua Corey**, Visiting Scholar **Oren Izenberg**, and Lecturer **Charitianne Williams**; UIC PhD Candidates **Garrett Brown**, **John Casey**, **Chad Heltzel**, **Justin Joyce**, **Emilio Sauri**, **Caleb Spencer**; Professor Kevin Floyd (Kent State University), Professor Jean Howard (Columbia University), Professor Maggie Nelson (California Institute of the Arts), and Professor Daniel O'Quinn (University of Guelph).



Faculty and students listen as Professor **Jennifer Ashton** discusses her paper "Affect, Meaning and Belief in Recent American Poetry."

## In Memoriam

### Jay Arnold Levine

Dean Emeritus **Jay Arnold Levine** died February 25, 2010. Professor Levine was born in New York, New York, in 1932. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Columbia University and his doctorate in English Literature at Johns Hopkins University. Before coming to the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1969, Professor Levine taught English literature at the University of Chicago, the University of California at Berkeley, University of Rochester, and Cornell University. A scholar of 18th-century British literature, he was the Chair of the UIC English Department and served as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1985 to 1995. Levine is survived by his daughter Julia H. Levine, brother Neal Levine, sister Harriet Miller, and close friend Bob Hiebert.

## Alumni Give Reading at Hull-House Museum

This year's UIC Alumni Creative Writing Event was held on Friday, February 12, 2010, at the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum. UIC alumni Professor **George Bailey** (Columbia College) and Professor **Alex Shakar** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) each read from novels-in-progress. The event is part of the Hull House Friday Night Reading Series sponsored by the UIC Program for Writers.

Bailey is Associate Professor of English at Columbia College. He earned his MA in

English from DePaul University and his PhD in Creative Writing from UIC. His work has appeared in the *Chicago Sun-Times* and in numerous anthologies, including *Chicago Works: A New Collection of Chicago Authors' Best Stories* (Morton Press, 2003).

Shakar is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received an MA in English from the University of Texas at Austin and a PhD in Creative Writing from UIC. He is the author of *City in Love: The New York Metamorphoses* (re-released by HarperCollins, 2002), winner of the FC2 national Fiction Competition, and *The Savage Girl* (Harper Perennial, 2002), which was selected as a *New York Times* Notable Book.



Professors **George Bailey** (Columbia College), **Mark Canuel** (UIC), and **Alex Shakar** (UIUC) at the Annual UIC Alumni Reading.



PhD student **Renoir Gaither** reads at a Friday Night Hull House Reading in October 2009.

In addition to the alumni reading, the Hull House Friday Night Reading Series highlights the work of current faculty members and graduate students in the Program for Writers. The 2009-2010 schedule began with a reading by visiting poet Professor **Joshua Corey** (Lake Forest College). Additional readings feature the work of both MA and PhD students: **Maggie Anderson**, **Jessica Berger**, **M. Shelly Conner**, **D. Star Costello**, **Colby Cuppernull**, **Renoir Gaither**, **Chad Heltzel**, **Brenda Jackson**, **Laura Krughoff**, **Donna Pecore**, **Derek Phillips**, **Beatriz Ruiz**, **Sacha Siskonen**, **Sara Tracey**, **Brooke Wonders**, and **Snežana Žabić**.

On Friday, April 2, 2010, the Program for Writers hosts its 2010 One-on-One Reading Series event featuring PhD student **Roxanne Pilat** and nationally known writer **S.L. Wisenberg**.



## Students Organize Conference

English PhD students **Mark Bennett**, **Colby Cupernull**, **Julie Fiorelli**, **Erika McCombs**, and **Nicole Russo**, along with several graduate students from other departments, have organized an interdisciplinary graduate student conference addressing “Peace and War.” The conference, which will take place in the Institute for the Humanities on Friday, April 16, 2010, will bring graduate students from many different fields and from institutions throughout the country and abroad to present academic papers on panels organized around various aspects of peace and war. The keynote speech will be given by Michael Allen, Assistant Professor of History at Northwestern University. The Peace and War conference is sponsored by the departments of English, Asian American Studies, and History, and by the Institute for the Humanities. Space is also provided by the Writing Center.

## Journals

### *ebr (electronic book review)*

Under the general editorship of Professor **Joseph Tabbi**, *ebr*, online at [www.electronicbookreview.com](http://www.electronicbookreview.com), has appointed five Associate Editors who met last November in Boulder, Colorado. Outcomes of that meeting, which was supported by an NEH grant, are a series of new essays on the politics and purpose of Creative Writing Programs, and the emergence of Critical Code Studies (featured in the February 2010 *Chronicle of Higher Education*).

### *Mediations*

PhD alumnus **Mathias Nilges** and **Emilio Sauri**, PhD student and Editorial Manager of *Mediations*, are co-guest editors for a special issue of the journal entitled “Marxism and Literature Revisited.” It will be available online in spring 2010. PDF versions of individual articles and of the whole issue are available on the *Mediations* website at <http://www.mediationsjournal.org>.



### *Packingtown Review*

*Packingtown Review*, the interdisciplinary journal of scholarship and art founded and developed by graduate students in the English Department was awarded a \$500 grant by the Illinois Arts Council that will support costs associated with the publication of Issue Two which appeared in February 2010. Information about subscriptions, submissions, and opportunities to support the journal are available at the journal's website at <http://www.packingtownreview.com>.



PACKINGTOWN REVIEW

from the

## Writing Center

Writing Center tutors **Ann Haibeck** and **Kristin Boyd** have their essay, “We Have a Secret: Balancing Directiveness and Nondirectiveness During Peer Tutoring,” accepted for publication in one of the most well-known Writing Center publications, *The Writing Lab Newsletter*. Haibeck is a graduating Nutrition major, and Boyd is an English major planning to be a writer.

**Jim Okrasinski** and **Kelly O’Farrell** presented their paper, “The ESL Case Study: The Avenue to Cultural Awareness for Writing Center Tutors,” at the Chicagoland Writing Center Conference in February at DePaul University. Both Okrasinski and O’Farrell are tutors at the Writing Center.

Writing Center director **Vainis Aleksa**, PhD, Lecturers **Lydia Saravia**, **Charitianne Williams**, **Charlyne Sarmiento**, and PhD students **Alex Wulff** and **Lindsay Marshall** have had a paper accepted for presentation at the Conference on College Composition and Communication. The paper, “Rethinking the Center: Antiracist, Anti-oppressive and Feminist Pedagogies and the Writing Center,” will be presented in Louisville, Kentucky, in March 2010.

This year’s winners of the Rosenthal Writing Center Teaching Associate Award are **David Marincic** and **Mimi Rosenbush**. The Teaching Associates work closely with the Writing Center tutors who provide in-class tutoring to the students in their courses. Last year’s winners of this teaching award were **Marc Baez**, **Mary Hibbeler**, **Ash Kini**, and **Nikki Paley Cox**.

Two tutors at the Writing Center have been named Rosenthal Social Justice Scholars: **Barbara San-Roman** and **Dima Ansari**. The Social Justice Scholars are given support to use a part of their time at the Writing Center to address social justice issues related to writing. Last year’s winners of the award were **Priscilla Lizasuain**, **Vicky Lim**, and **Sabrina Anfossi**, who together with **Cynthia Williams** instituted the UIC student organization, the Future Teachers for Social Justice.



Students working in the Writing Center. Photograph courtesy of **Vainis Aleksa**.

from the

# Office of English Undergraduate Studies



Professor **Christina Pugh**, Director



Jeffrey Gore, PhD,  
Academic Advisor

The most basic purpose of the Office of Undergraduate Studies, run by Professor **Christina Pugh** (Director) and **Jeffrey Gore**, PhD, (Academic Advisor), is to help students monitor their own progress towards graduation by giving them access to their permanent records. However, according to Jeffrey Gore, another purpose of the Office is to help English majors discover how their day-to-day assignments contribute to larger frames of reference: "I regularly meet with students around vacations when they have to explain to friends and family, 'What are you going to do with an English degree?' Some students go on to graduate school and careers in teaching and research. But many will find 'information age' jobs in journalism, public relations, and the media."

- ☑ **Advising Information and Registration:** In individual appointments, Dr. Gore will help you to evaluate which classes will best contribute to your progress towards graduation and your own goals. Hours are posted outside the office, 1931UH, or write Dr. Gore for an appointment (jgore1@uic.edu).
- ☑ **Workshops on Jobs in English and Applying to Graduate School:** Announcements are made each semester for workshops that offer tips for getting into graduate school or landing a first job. Contact Dr. Gore for details.
- ☑ **Internships:** Our students regularly intern with major media outlets and international non-profit organizations, and our internship program is one of the most competitive among Midwestern universities. Contact **Linda Landis Andrews** for details (landrews@uic.edu).
- ☑ **Scholarships and Awards:** Stop by our office for details on scholarships and awards for which you might be eligible. We strongly encourage students to compete for these awards.
- ☑ **Get Connected:** The "e-majors" listserv provides current English majors with announcements about opportunities available on and off campus, along with information about registration, office hours, and graduation. If you are not subscribed to the listserv, please contact Dr. Gore at jgore1@uic.edu.

## Graduate School Workshop

In Fall 2009, the Office of Undergraduate Studies hosted its Graduate School Workshop for English majors. Almost 30 students attended this afternoon session, which included presentations from Department Head **Mark Canuel**, Professor **Gerald Graff**, Lecturer **Cathy Birkenstein-Graff**, and **Neil O'Callaghan**, Coordinator of the UIC Graduate Program in English. The purpose of the event was to introduce students to the issues around graduate education and to help them with the details of the application process itself.



Professor **Gerald Graff** and Lecturer **Cathy Birkenstein-Graff** advise students on the DOs and DON'Ts of the Statement of Purpose.

## LASAA Recognizes Student Involvement

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Association's Board of Directors annually selects two students to receive the LASAA Merit Award Scholarships. In 2009, psychology graduate student Jennifer Veilleux and undergraduate student



LASAA award recipients Jennifer Veilleux and **Neha Agnihotri**.  
Photograph by Renee Gooch.

**Neha Agnihotri** who is majoring in biochemistry and minoring in English were honored at the 14th Annual LAS Recognition Dinner for their academic achievements as well as their contributions to the LAS and UIC community. If you're looking for a way to give back and connect with LAS, please contact the LASAA. Various volunteer opportunities in a number of settings are available with time commitments from three to thirty hours a year. Please e-mail LASconnect@uic.edu for more information.



## Alumni Jobs Workshop

In Spring 2010, the Office of Undergraduate Studies hosted *What's Next?: A Workshop on Jobs for English Majors*. Speakers included **Mark Martell**, Assistant Director of the Office of Career Services, and English Department alumni **Pavan Babu** (BA, 2008), **Megy Karydes** (BA, 1995), **Randy Kim** (BA, 2007), **Joanna Starnawski** (BA, 2009) and **Catherine Klocksins** (BA, 2007). The topic of the day was how to translate the basic activities of English majors, such as reading poetry and writing five-page papers, into marketable skills. Many of the participating alumni had been participants in **Linda Landis**



Alumna **Katie Klocksins** (BA, 2007) discusses her internship with Kurtis Productions that led to her work on the documentary *What's the Matter with Kansas?* at the spring 2010 Jobs Workshop.



Alumna **Joanna Starnawski** (BA, 2009) elaborates points of her presentation with Internship Coordinator **Linda Landis Andrews** and current UIC English student **Heather McKinney**.

**Andrews's** undergraduate internship program.

Katie Klocksins shared clips from *What's the Matter with Kansas?*, a documentary she helped produce, and Pavan Babu showed clips from his film work for WTTW and discussed his position as a researcher for the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. Megy Karydes shared with students details of her firm, Karydes Consulting, which coordinates eco-friendly and fair trade organizations, non-profit groups, and website developers, and recent graduate Randy Kim sent a video describing his current work teaching English in South Korea. Joanna Starnawski shared that her ability to interpret different kinds of text and identify her audience are invaluable skills for her work as a paid intern with the National Parent Teacher Association.

Although there was general agreement among the speakers that their UIC internships were the "stepping stones" for their careers, many also noted that the English major itself contributed to their current success.

## Student News

PhD Student **Caroline Gottschalk-Druschke**, a Fellow in the Landscape, Ecological and Anthropogenic Processes Program, has been awarded a UIC Chancellor's Supplemental Graduate Research Fellowship for her project entitled, "Developing a Rhetorical Understanding of Ecology: Arguments for (and Against) Conservation at the Watershed Scale" with faculty mentor **Ralph Cintron**.

UIC undergraduate **Grzegorz Dyrek**, with support from UIC's Study Abroad office, was selected to participate in Australia Learn after drafting a proposal in his First-Year Writing Program course ENGL 160. Dyrek spent the fall 2009 semester in New Zealand focusing on science classes.

PhD student **Jason Evans** has been accepted as an associate in the Global Skills for College Completion project. This project, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, "deploys an online community of 26 outstanding basic skills faculty in 16 states on 13 campuses to innovate math and writing basic skills pedagogy to consistently increase pass rates to 80%."

PhD student **Meg King** won the 2009 Alice J. Dan Dissertation Award, given by the UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender. With the award, she was able to travel to the Library of Congress to conduct research at the American Folklife Center.

PhD student **Sarah Rutter** won an INSPIRE award from the Alumni Association. The award recognizes faculty, students, and staff who are "embodiment(s) of UIC's Core Values."

UIC undergraduate **Marisol Velez** received the 2009 Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation Scholarship at a special awards luncheon at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont on December 3, 2009. From a field of almost 300 applicants, Marisol was one of 20 college and university students from Illinois to receive the award.

# English Department News

The Richard J. Daley Library hosted a book signing by Lecturer **Gary Buslik** at its booth at the Chicago Tribune Printers Row Lit Fest on June 7, 2009. Buslik signed his newest book of short stories, *A Rotten Person Travels the Caribbean*.

Lecturer **Marsha Cassidy**, in cooperation with Professor **Jennifer Ashton**, received a 2008-09 Curriculum and Instruction Grant from the UIC Council for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The summer grant funded a project to create a blended learning version of English 110: English and American Popular Genres, combining online and classroom lessons.

The Department of English welcomed two additions to its faculty for the 2009-2010 academic year. **Joshua Corey** joined the UIC faculty in the fall semester as a Visiting Writer. He is Assistant Professor of English at Lake Forest College, and his new book, *Severance Songs*, won the 2008 Dorset Prize from Tupelo Press and will be published in late 2010. **Oren Izenberg** joined the UIC faculty in the spring semester as a Visiting Scholar. He works on the history and theory of poetry and poetics, with an emphasis on American literature from 1860 to the present.



Professor **Ralph Cintron** asks a question at the Law and Society Symposium sponsored by the UIC Institute for the Humanities; PhD student **Smita Das** looks on. Photograph by Kathryn Marchetti © The University of Illinois Board of Trustees

Professor **Ralph Cintron** was named a Great Cities Scholar for 2009-2010. While at the Great Cities Institute, he will be working on a book manuscript entitled *Democracy as Fetish: Rhetoric, Ethnography, and the Expansion of Life*. By examining democratic theory and democratic practice in diverse contexts ranging from Chicago's Latino neighborhoods to Kosovo, Cintron aims to show how democracy is limited in its ideals by a pervasive "structural oligarchy."

**Diane Chin**, Assistant Director of the Chicago Civic Leadership Certificate Program, was selected as a recipient of the 2009 UIC Award of Merit, a campus-wide honor which "recognizes academic professional and support staff employees who have demonstrated excellence in service, commitment, and dedication."

Professor **Lennard Davis** was named Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor. This title has been extended to only a small number of professors throughout the college, and it recognizes "a continuous record of distinguished scholarly activity, receipt of national or international awards, and significant recognition from outside the university." His latest

books are *Obsession: The Biography of a Disease* (Chicago, 2008) and *Go Ask Your Father: One Man's Obsession with Finding His Origins Through DNA Testing* (Bantam, 2009).

Professor **Todd DeStigter** was awarded a 2009 UIC Award for Excellence in Teaching. This award is for tenure-track faculty members at UIC who have taught at the university for at least ten years. It recognizes innovative curricular development, superior classroom teaching, and a creative approach to integrating scholarship and teaching at both graduate and undergraduate levels.



Visiting Poet **Joshua Corey** presents his work at a colloquium.

Professor **Lisa A. Freeman** was the recipient of a 2009 Research Fellowship from the American Society for Theatre Research.

Professor **Gerald Graff's** 2008 MLA presidential address was published in *PMLA*. Graff gave invited talks at Case Western Reserve University and

Grant MacEwan University in Canada, and, with Lecturer **Cathy Birkenstein-Graff**, at Western Michigan University, Wabash College, Seattle University, the University of Washington, and Washington College of Maryland.

Professor **Rachel Havrelock** was invited to give two lectures during the spring 2010 semester. In February 2010, she spoke about "Jordan River Baptism: Christian Tourism meets Jewish and Arab Nationalism" at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at University of Chicago. Also in February 2010, she presented "The Lost History of Jewish Anti-nationalism" at the Program in Jewish Studies at University of Colorado, Boulder.

Lecturer **Philip Jenks** was selected to participate at the University of Arizona's Poetry Center "Next Word" Series in January 2010. The Next Word features upcoming, prominent authors. At this series, he led an Honors English seminar on his work (with Brandon Shimoda and Akilah Oliver), read his work at the Poetry Center, and gave a panel presentation on his poetry and poetics.

Professor **Anna Kornbluh** was named one of the 2009-2010 Institute for the Humanities Fellows. She is working on a project titled "*To Realize Capital: Libidinal and Financial Economies in mid-Victorian Realist Form*." On January 27, 2010, she gave a Fellows Lecture titled "Fictitious Capital/Real Psyche: Finance and Psychology in Victorian Thought, Then and Now."



# English Department News

Professor **Deirdre McCloskey** was a visiting professor at the University of Gothenberg in Sweden during October 2009, where she put the finishing touches on her big book, *Bourgeois Dignity: Why Economics Can't Explain the Modern World*, which will be available from University of Chicago Press in October 2010.

Professor **Walter Benn Michaels** will be a plenary speaker this summer at the 4th World Forum on Human Rights in Nantes (sponsored by Unesco) in the session "Identities and Minorities." He will also, along with Hayden White and Giorgio Agamben, be a plenary speaker at the Kennedy Institute's conference on "States of Emergency" in Berlin.



The Chicago Foundation for Women has selected **Mary Anne Mohanraj** as one of its "Breaking Barriers" honorees. Mohanraj, Clinical Assistant Professor of English, is the author of *Bodies in Motion* (HarperCollins, 2005) and nine other titles. She will also be Guest of Honor at WisCon, the foremost feminist science fiction convention, which encourages discussion, debate and extrapolation of ideas relating to feminism, gender, race and class.

Professor **Mary Beth Rose** was invited to give a talk on facilitating humanities research at the CIC Academic Leadership Program seminar in Urbana, Illinois, on Friday, January 29, 2010.



Professor **Gene W. Ruoff** delivers a "Last Lecture" prior to retirement.

Professor Emeritus **Gene W. Ruoff** retired from UIC in August 2009 where most recently he held the position of Associate Provost for Information and Management Systems.

Recently, Professor Emerita **A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff** donated to the UIC Daley Library twenty boxes of her papers, which include thirty years of correspondence on American Indian Literature and American Indian Studies. In 2008, she appeared on the panel on "Associate Professor Survey: Senior Women Mentoring," at the MLA convention in San Francisco. Her response, "Standing Still: The Associate Professor Survey," was published in the Spring 2009 edition of *Profession*. In May 2009, she gave a paper on Paula Gunn Allen (Laguna Pueblo) at the international symposium on "Tradition in Native American Literature," at Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier III, France. In June 2009, she completed her term as chair of the MLA Radio Committee.

Professor **Anne Winters** chaired the Pulitzer Prize Jury for Poetry, was the Keynote Speaker at the Conference on Religion and Cities at Wheaton College in September 2009, and published, among others, four sonnets on Rembrandt in the January issue of *Poetry*.



Professor **Walter Benn Michaels** serves as a moderator of the UIC/Chicago-Kent Law and Society Symposium held October 21, 2009.

The Symposium was part of the Forum for Research on Law Politics, and the Humanities organized by Professors **Mark Canuel** and **Stephen Engelmann** (Political Science). The UIC Institute for the Humanities sponsored this event.

Photograph by Kathryn Marchetti

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Above: PhD students **Brianna Noll**, **Chris Findeisen**, **Lucas Johnson**, and **Jen Hammond**

## Department Gatherings

Below: PhD students **Roxanne Pilat**, **Jenny Morse**, and **Jen Moore**



Above: PhD students **Mark Bennett**, **Chad Heltzel**, and **Justin Joyce**

## Publications by Faculty

Professor Emeritus **Michael Anania**'s new collection of poetry, *Continuous Showings*, will be published this spring by Asphodel (Moyer Bell). Poems from this collection have been awarded the Charles T. Agnoff Prize and the Aniello Lauri Award.

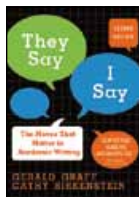


Professor Emeritus **Preston M. Browning, Jr.**, recently published *Affection and Estrangement: A Southern Family Memoir* (iUniverse, 2009). Part personal reflection, part portraiture of distinctive personalities, part self-analysis, the book contains more than twenty sketches of family members and ancestors including two born in the 18th century, descriptions of Browning's early life in the very southern community of Culpeper, Virginia, and a discussion of race, religion, and class in the South in the thirties and forties. Browning will read from his work on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, 3:00 p.m. in the UIC Institute for the Humanities.

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Professor **Lisa A. Freeman** is pleased to announce the publication of her edited volume on Sarah Siddons as part of Pickering and Chatto's *Lives of Shakespearian Actors* series.

Professor **Gerald Graff** and Lecturer **Cathy Birkenstein-Graff** published a second edition of "*They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*" (Norton, 2010).



The stories in Professor **Cris Mazza**'s new book, *Trickle-Down Timeline* (Red Hen Press, 2009) are glimpses into individual lives subtly influenced by the political and social milieu of the

1980s, the era just before computers, at the dawn of "safe sex," when a sub-generation

of people came of age without a war in Vietnam to unite them.

*Prague Palimpsest: Writing, Memory, and the City* by Professor **Alfred Thomas** will be published by the University of Chicago Press in August 2010. Departing from the popular touristic view of Prague as a timeless space of magic and enchantment, *Prague Palimpsest* envisions the ancient city in Central Europe as a multi-layered text or palimpsest that has been endlessly "rewritten" across time—from the earliest chroniclers to the modernists of the early twentieth century, who established its reputation as a burgeoning center of cultural cosmopolitanism.



## Publications by Lecturers

Lecturer **Cathy Birkenstein-Graff** published her essay "We Got the Wrong Gal: Rethinking the 'Bad' Academic Writing of Judith Butler" in the January 2010 issue of *College English*. With Professor **Gerald Graff**, she published "An Immodest Proposal for Connecting High School and College" in the September 2009 issue of *College Composition and Communication*.

Lecturer **Gary Buslik**'s essay "In or Out," about the 1983 U.S. military campaign in Grenada, will appear in *Travelers' Tales* anthology *Best Travel Writing 2010*.

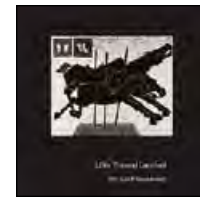


Lecturer **Garin Cycholl**'s new book-length poem, *Hostile Witness*, was recently published by BlazeVOX books (2009).

Lecturer **Angela Dancey**'s essay, "Killer Instincts: Motherhood and Violence in *The Long Kiss Goodnight* and *Kill Bill*" was published in the collection *Mommy Angst: Motherhood in American Popular Culture* edited by Ann C. Hall and Mardia Bishop (Praeger, 2009).



Lecturer **Philip Jenks** had his poems "Isolate," "Hives," and "A Count" published by *Fence*. His poem "Arms" was published in *Typo*. His essay on Shelley's *Frankenstein* and war was published in a collaborative book, *Distance*, with the visual artist Sasha Miljevic (Dutch Art Institute, 2009, and Voltag Productions). Additionally, he has collaborated on numerous poems with UIC alumna **Simone Muench** (PhD, English) including the chapbook *Little Visceral Carnival* (Cinematique Press, 2009).



Lecturer **Marla Weeg** had her short story "Leif Ericsson" published in *The Tonopah Review: A Quarterly of Poetry and Prose* (tonopahreview.org) in October 2009.

Lecturer **Andrea Witzke Leavey** has had her poem "Ode to a Bear: Part II" published in the January 2010 issue of *Southern Women's Review*. She will be presenting a paper titled "Between the Scylla and The Charybdis: Navigating the Cultural Waters in Julia Alvarez's 'The Other Side/El Otro Lado'" at the American Comparative Literature Association conference in April 2010. Leavey has been accepted into a juried poetry workshop with Marge Piercy which will be held in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, in June 2010.



# Alumni News and Publications

**Jeffrey Renard Allen** (BA English, MA English, PhD English) won the Gaines Literary Prize for his short story collection, *Holding Pattern* (Graywolf Press, 2008).



**Luisa A. Igloria** (PhD, English) recently assumed the position of Director, MFA Creative Writing Program, at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

**Brandi (Mora) Johnston** (BA, English) is currently at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, learning Arabic for the Air Force. She is now officially a USPA licensed skydiver and ran in the Big Sur Marathon last year.



After teaching in the composition program at UIC following her graduation, **Carol LaChapelle** (MA, English) left to conduct her own writing workshops in various adult education programs, most regularly at the Newberry Library. Her book, *Finding Your Voice, Telling Your Stories* (Marion Street Press, 2008), is based on those workshops.

In October, **Jim McManus** (BA, MA, English) gave a reading at Barbara's Bookstore in conjunction with the publication of his latest book, *Cowboys Full: The Story of Poker* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009). The book earned a spot on Amazon.com's list of Best Books of November 2009.



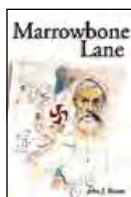
**Orlando Menes** (PhD, English) has received an NEA Fellowship in Poetry.

**Simone Muench** (PhD, English) was recently promoted to Associate Professor at Lewis University.



**Brigid Pasulka** (MA, English) won the 2010 Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award for a distinguished first book of fiction for her novel *A Long, Long Time Ago and Essentially True* (Houghton Mifflin, 2009).

**John Ronan** (MA, English) recently published a new collection of poetry, *Marrowbone Lane* (The Backwaters Press, 2009). An NEA Fellow, poet, playwright, and



journalist, Ronan was named Poet Laureate of Gloucester, Massachusetts, in June 2008.

**Reginald Shepherd's** life and work were celebrated at Poets' House in New York on March 12, 2009, with a program entitled "A Tribute to Reginald Shepherd." Among the speakers were Marilyn Hacker, Timothy Liu, and Susan Stewart.

**David Urban** (PhD, English) was recently granted tenure at Calvin College where he is an Assistant Professor of English.



Professor Rabbi **Burton L. Visotzky** (BA, English), Appleman Professor of Midrash and Interreligious Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary, spent a sabbatical in Spring 2007 as Master Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Recently, Visotzky published his ninth book, his first novel, *A Delightful Compendium of Consolation* (Ben Yehuda Press, 2008), a work of historic fiction set in 11th century North Africa.

**Jackie White** (PhD, English) is the current chair of the English Department at Lewis University.



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# Publications by Graduate Students

**Tadd Adcox's** work appeared in or is forthcoming from *Barrelhouse*, *Bateau*, *The Literary Review*, *Keyhole Digest*, *Decameron*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, and *the delinquent*. He was mentioned as a "Writer to Watch," in the *Chicago Tribune*. He is the founder and editor-in-chief of *Artifice Magazine*; Issue One was released in February 2010.

**M. Shelly Conner's** article examining the roles of women in contemporary African American motorcycle clubs appeared in the Fall 2009 issue of the *International Journal of Motorcycle Studies*.

**Matthew Corey** recently published fourteen poems from his manuscript *A Night-Blue Stumble of Gaslight* in *At Length Magazine*, available at <http://atlengthmag.com/>.

**Colby Cuppernull's** short story "At the End of the Day" was the second place winner of the James Jones Short Story Award, part of the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition.

**Andrew Farkas's** "A Rogue Department Course Offering" appeared in the July 2009 issue of *Squid Quarterly*. "On the Road to the Great City" appeared in the September 2009 issue of *Spring Gun*. "14 July: Bastille Day" (a collaboration with

PhD student **Megan Milks**) appeared in the October 2009 issue of *Sidebrow*.

**Jenn Hawe's** "A Meal in Men of Letters" appeared in *[out of nothing]* no. 2.

**Carrie Messenger's** "Edgewater" appeared in this fall's issue of *Crab Orchard Review*, and "The Poetess Writes Unanswered Letters" appeared in last spring's *Redivider*.

**Megan Milks's** short story "Slug" was selected for the anthology *The eNOW Awards: The Best Innovative Writing*. Her short story "Kill Marguerite" was published as a chapbook through Another New Calligraphy Press, and her story "Tomato Heart" appeared in the first issue of *The Wild*. A prose piece called "My Father and I Were Bent Groundward" will appear in *Thirty Under Thirty*, an anthology of emerging innovative writers to be released in 2010.

**Roxanne Pilat's** poem "on swimming" appeared in the Fall/Winter 2009 volume of *The Hummingbird Review*. Her essay, "The Green Room" appeared in the Fall 2009 issue of *Dominican University Magazine*.

**Ivan Rodden** published a chapbook, *This is How We Will Live, Now That We Are*

*Free* (RockSaw Press, 2010). He also published "Ha Noi Zoo, 1994" in *Flash: The International Short-Short Story Magazine*, "Something I Do While I Wait For" and "Expectation" in *Harpur Palate*, "Posted With Glue, Then Removed Overnight" in *elimae*, "Along the Lines of Good Advice" in *Buffalo Carp*, "The Economic Advancement of the Lower Classes on the Shoulders of Dreamers" in *Feathertale*, and "Gordon and His Amazing Dog Boncer" in *The Blotter Magazine*.

**Emilio Sauri** has an article forthcoming in the spring 2010 issue of *MLN*. The article is entitled "'A la pinche modernidad': Literary Form and the End of History in Roberto Bolaño's *Los detectives salvajes*."

**Sara Tracey's** poem "And After This" appeared in the June 2009 issue of *Anti-*, "Advice from a Hotel Maid" appeared in the August 2009 issue of *After Hours*, and her poems "Summer of Hammers and Whiskey," "Lament with Gravel Roads," "Periwinkle," and "Tell Me About Your Tattoos" appeared in the December 2009 issue of *Arsenic Lobster*.

**Snežana Žabić's** short story "Nasledstvo" ("Inheritance") was published in *Kvartal*, a literary journal from Pancevo, Serbia.



## The Anne Hopewell Selby Memorial Fund

Relatives, colleagues, and other friends of the late **Anne Hopewell Selby**, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Illinois at Chicago, established a fund in her memory for awards for distinction in English. Annually, the department selects one graduate student to win the Anne Hopewell Selby Award, based on the most distinguished student essay. The Anne Hopewell Selby fund also supports graduate student research and travel for a number of students each academic year. Please consider contributing to the Anne Hopewell Selby Memorial Fund and supporting the research of current and future graduate students.



At left, PhD student **Ryan Brooks**, winner of the 2008 Anne Hopewell Selby Award, holds a copy of "The Wire": Urban Decay and American Television (*Continuum*, 2009) containing his essay "The Narrative Production of 'Real Police'"; at right, **Jonathan Poore**, winner of the 2009 Anne Hopewell Selby Award



# Graduate Student Presentations

**Mark Bennett** will present “Voices of Terrorism in Post-9/11 Fiction” at the College English Association Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas, in March 2010. In late March, he will also present “The Terrorist Attack in Twentieth-Century Fiction: Conrad and DeLillo” at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA) annual convention in St. Louis, Missouri.

**M. Shelly Conner** presented a paper on “African American Women, Trauma, and Memory” at the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) Conference, November 13, 2009, in Atlanta, Georgia.



PhD student **Snežana Žabić**, founding co-editor-in-chief of *Packington Review* with **Tasha Fouts Marren**, presents the first issue of the journal.

**Cynthia Cravens** is presenting a paper titled “George Gissing, Jonathan Franzen, and the Neoliberal Aesthetic” at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA) national conference in St. Louis, Missouri, at the end of March 2010.

**Amy Gates** gave a paper titled “The Disappearing Dead: The Graves of Wordsworth’s Lyrical Ballads” at the International Conference on Romanticism in New York, in November 2009. She will present “‘Too deep and still’: Fixing Memory in Hemans’ *Records of Woman*” at the British Women Writers Conference in College Station, Texas, in April 2010. The British Women Writers Association selected her proposal to receive one of three 2010 Graduate Student Travel Scholarships.

**Jason Evans** gave a conference paper, “Structuring the Color Line through Composition,” at the Allerton Articulation Conference in Monticello, Illinois, in April 2009.

PhD students **Tasha Fouts Marren** and **Snežana Žabić**, with Professor Davis Schneiderman (Lake Forest College) and J. Alex Schwartz (NIU Press), will present at the panel “Shifting Grounds of Copyright: A How-to” at the 2010 AWP Conference in Denver.

**Lindsay Marshall**, **Matt Pavesich**, and **Nadya Pittendrigh** have had a paper accepted for presentation at the Rhetoric Society of America conference. The panel presentation, “Inclusion/Exclusion: Governmentality and the Biopolitical in Three Case Studies” will be delivered at the RSA in Minneapolis this May 2010.



PhD students **Andy Farkas**, **Sara Tracey**, **Laura Krughoff**, and **Maggie Andersen**

**Sein Oh** presented his paper “No Laurels O’er the Hero’s Urn: Impossible Nationalism in Byron’s *The Island*” at the International Conference on Romanticism in New York, in November 2009.

**Roxanne Pilat** presented a paper titled “Teaching the Interview: Building Literacy by Capturing the Words of Others” to the College Literacy and Learning SIG of the International Reading Association in Minneapolis. Pilat’s paper “F. Scott Fitzgerald and Cole Porter: Two Artists at Work in the Jazz Age” was presented on her behalf by Professor **Chris Messenger** at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference in Maryland in September 2009. Pilat read excerpts from “Stories from My Father” at the Italian Cultural Center in Stone Park, outside of Chicago. **JoAnne Ruvoli Gruba** also read creative work at this program.

In October 2009, **Ivan Rodden** presented “Thomas Mann in L.A.” at the John R. Milton Writers’ Conference. He presented “This is How We Live, Now That We are Free” and “Gilman’s Invisible Menace: Spinning Into Butter and the Threat of Specificity,” at the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900 at the University of Louisville in February 2010.

**Arindam Saha** presented a paper entitled “Keats and the Representation of Contraries” at the 21st Annual Stony Brook Graduate English Conference in New York City in February 2009.

**Jason Schneider** attended a graduate student conference in September 2009 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he presented a paper entitled “Writing Polish: Rhetorics of the Nation in an Immigrant Newspaper.”



PhD student **Emilio Sauri** presents his work as part of the Practice Job Talk series of colloquia.

## Department of English Presents 2009 Student Awards

The Department of English announced its 2009 award winners at its end-of-the-year celebration held Thursday, April 30, 2009. Award winners include the following: **Jonathan Poore**, Anne Hopewell Selby Award; **Mark Bennett**, Department of English Distinguished Teaching Assistant



Award; **Brian Sheerin**, Gloria Fromm Award; **Jennifer Rupert**, Kogan Bonus Award; **James Pate**, Charles Goodnow Endowed Award for poetry; **Roxanne Pilat**, Charles Goodnow Endowed Award for prose; **Dana Comiskey** and **Gina Collier**, Woods-Lindley Award; **Justin Sherwood**, Creative Writing Award; **Andrea Watson**, Critical Essay Writing Award; **Majdi Sweis**, Raymond and Wilma Campion Award; **Vicky Lim**, John and Jeanne Newton Scholarship; **Lachezar Oreshkov**, Ernest C. Van Keuren Award; **Ginelle Sanchez Leos** and **Sable Tran**, Robert and Corinne Silver Award; **Michael Meinhardt**, Distinguished Lecturer Award;



**Mathias Nilges**, Outstanding Thesis Award; **Justin Joyce**, Dean's Scholar Award; **Kristy Ulibari**, Lincoln Fellowship.

*Top: Professor Cris Mazza and James Pate*

*Bottom left: Majdi (MJ) Sweis and Professor Mark Chiang*

*Bottom right: Kristy Ulibari and Professor Mark Canuel*

### Giving to the UIC Department of English

Would you like to make a contribution to the UIC English department that will help undergraduate and graduate students? The department hopes to expand opportunities for student support and student travel, and you can help us to do that with any contribution to the General Fund, the first option on the Giving page at the department website, <http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/giving/giving.html>.



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