

Department of **ENGLISH** Newsletter

Spring 2011

Inside this Issue

National Rankings	2
Faculty Retirements	2
Alumnae Reading.....	3
New Personnel	3
Colloquia	3
Undergraduate Studies...	6
Writing Center	7
Faculty	
News	4
Publications	5
Alumni	
News, Publications ...	8
Students	
News	8
Publications	11
Presentations	10
Awards	12

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Message from the Department Head

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

2010 proved to be one of the best years ever for UIC's English department. In the fall, the National Research Council published its rankings of graduate programs. In cumulative rankings across 21 categories of analysis, UIC came out at the very top of graduate programs in Chicago, and indeed in all of Illinois: that is, above the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Chicago, and Northwestern University (among others). In perhaps the most important category, faculty productivity, UIC ranked in the top 10 nationally. (In

a separate article in this newsletter, **Professor Walter Benn Michaels** explains these rankings in more detail.) UIC's stellar ranking represents the very high quality of education to be offered to undergraduate students, as well: every day, in every course, students at all levels are exposed to the best and brightest of today's scholars, researchers, creative writers, and teachers.

Although the department's faculty, students, and alumni have reason to be proud about this latest piece of news, there's still room for improvement. One particular area that can clearly be improved is the area of minority graduate student recruitment and retention: this is something that we can work on by providing more robust fellowship support for minority students—students who will become the future teachers of high school and college students across the country. If you have an interest in finding out how you could contribute to this effort, please contact **Chuck Coughlin** (cec@uic.edu) or **KJ Hardy** (kjhardy@uic.edu) in the LAS Office of Advancement.

As always, the department also welcomes support for both graduate and undergraduate research and scholarly work through contributions to the Anne Hopewell Selby Fund, named after the late Anne Hopewell Selby, Assistant Professor in the English department; contributions can also be made to the English department General Fund. This year, generous donations from UIC English alumni and friends helped support students like **Amy Gates**, **David Jakalski**, and **Laura Krughoff** to attend conferences and present their work across the country (see page 10); donations also helped fund an English department Glossary (developed by graduate student **Jennifer Moore**), a teaching tool that helps defray the cost of textbooks for undergraduates who frequently need glossaries for their survey courses. (You can see the glossary yourself on our department website.) To facilitate donations, we include a tear-out remittance form on page 9, accompanied by a return envelope for those receiving the newsletter in hard copy. You can also make donations to all department funds by visiting the English department website at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/giving/giving.html>.

Please don't forget to update us on your own news: the many accomplishments of our distinguished and active alumni are featured on pages 8-9, and we welcome more contributions for our next publication. E-mail us at englishnewsletteruic@gmail.com.

Best wishes,

Mark E. Canuel
Professor and Head



Returning alumni, current students, and faculty members listen with rapt attention to poet Duriel E. Harris at the annual Alumni Reading at the Hull-House Museum.

UIC English Department Moves Up National Rankings

The National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences has released its assessment of doctoral programs in all the major disciplines, and UIC English has done very well, both nationally and locally. The “cumulative” ranking places UIC above all other English programs in Illinois, including those at Northwestern University, University of Chicago, and University of Illinois. UIC English is similarly prominent when compared to other well-known English programs at Duke, NYU, and UCLA.

Director of Graduate Studies, Professor **Walter Benn Michaels**, writes this about the NRC results:

We’re very proud to have placed so high in the NRC assessments of PhD programs and prouder still of the graduate students and faculty whose efforts are reflected in these ratings. Our faculty, for example, ranks 10th nationally in publication per faculty member and that’s a direct consequence of a lot of hard work. We’ve also done remarkably well in “Overall Rating of Program Quality.” When you remember that in the NRC ratings from 1995 (which followed a different methodology and are thus only partially comparable but nonetheless provide a useful benchmark), we ranked 64th in Faculty Quality, you can see that we’ve come a long way.

But we also know that we still have a way to go. We need to find ways to support both graduate student and faculty research more generously. When people see how well we do with such limited resources, we hope they will also see how much we could accomplish with a little more support.

Finally, we’re very much aware of the fact that ratings like these are a limited tool. The real measure of a program’s quality is, of course, the quality of the work it’s doing—not only in publications, but in seminars, colloquia and undergraduate as well as graduate classrooms. The NRC rankings only begin to get at that but, as everyone connected with UIC English will testify, it’s the intellectual intensity and seriousness of our everyday work that makes UIC English an exciting place. That’s what we’re most proud of, and that’s what we want to continue to build on.



Professor **Walter Benn Michaels** speaks with undergraduate English majors at the fall 2010 Graduate School Workshop.

Faculty Members Retire

Professor **Anne Winters** announced her retirement from UIC at the end of the 2009-2010 academic year. During the current academic year, four additional Professors of English announced their retirements: Professor **Thomas Bestul** retired at the end of the fall 2010 semester, and Professor **John Huntington**, Professor **Christian Messenger**, and Professor **Eugene Wildman** will retire at the end of the spring 2011 semester. Each of these faculty members has given many years of service to the department and to the university community and has contributed in a variety of ways to enhance the department’s national reputation.



Professor **John Huntington** and Professor Emeritus **Michael Lieb**.



Professor **Eugene Wildman** and **Roxanne Pilat**, non-fiction writer in the PhD Program for Writers.



Professor **Christian Messenger**



Professor **Thomas Bestul**



Professor **Anne Winters** (third from left) with poets in the PhD Program for Writers **Jennifer Moore**, **Sara Tracey**, **Matthew Corey**, and **Jenny Morse**.

Alumnae Read at Hull-House Museum in Friday Night Reading Series

The spring 2011 Alumni Poetry & Fiction Reading, held on the UIC campus on February 11, 2011 at the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, featured alumnae **Duriel E. Harris** and **Brigid Pasulka**. The event is sponsored by the UIC Program for Writers, the Department of English, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Office of Advancement.

Harris is the author of *Drag* (Elixir Press, 2003) and *Amnesiac: Poems* (Sheep Meadow Press, 2010). A poet, performer, sound artist and scholar, Harris holds degrees from Yale University and the Graduate Creative Writing Program at New York University, and a PhD from the UIC Program for Writers. She is currently at work on *AMNESIAC*, a media art project funded in part by the UCSB Center for Black Studies Race and Technology Initiative. A co-founder of the Black Took Collective and Poetry Editor for *Obsidian*, her work has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies. Her appearances include performances at The Babel Theatre (Beirut, Lebanon), The Blue Note (Poznan, Poland), Links Hall (Chicago), The Poetry Project (NY), and many more. She is Assistant Professor of English and teaches creative writing and poetics at Illinois State University.

The descendant of Polish immigrants, Pasulka spent most of her childhood in a small farming township in central Illinois. After graduating from Dartmouth College, she arrived in Krakow in

the summer of 1994 with no contacts, no knowledge of the language, and only a vague idea of Polish culture. She quickly fell in love with the place, learned Polish, and decided to live there for one year. Pasulka is a graduate of the UIC Program for Writers and currently teaches at Whitney Young Magnet High School in the Chicago Public Schools. *A Long, Long Time Ago and Essentially True* (Houghton Mifflin, 2009) is her first novel. It won the 2010 PEN/Hemingway award and has been chosen for both the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers and the Waterstones New Voices series.



Professor **Cris Mazza** (center) with alumnae **Duriel E. Harris** and **Brigid Pasulka**

In addition to the Alumni Reading, the Program for Writers hosts the Friday Night Reading Series throughout the academic year to feature the work of current graduate students. This year's readers included: **James Tadd Adcox**, **Garrett Brown**, **Chris Bryson**, **M. Shelly Conner**, **Andrew Farkas**, **Virginia Konchan**, **Laura Krughoff**, **Katya Kulik**, **Megan Milks**, **Tyler Mills**, **Jen Moore**, **Brianna Noll**, **Roxanne Pilat**, **Sacha Siskonen**, and **Brooke Wonders**.

The Program for Writers also hosts an annual One-on-One Reading showcasing the work of a nationally known writer and a graduate student in the UIC Program for Writers. This year, Professor **Reginald Gibbons** (Northwestern University) will read with PhD student **Matthew Corey** on April 15, 2011.

New Personnel Hired

PhD candidate **Mark Bennett** is now Visiting Assistant Director of the First-Year Writing Program. He takes the position formerly held by **Tom Moss** who served the Program for nine years as Assistant then Associate Director.

UIC alumnus **David Krstovich** (MA, English) joined the department as Academic Advisor in the Office of English Undergraduate Studies. He takes over the position formerly held by alumnus **Jeffrey Gore** (PhD, English). David has held positions as Academic Advisor in the English department at Arizona State University, and in Student Academic Affairs at UIC.

Michael Fitzpatrick comes to us from the Liautaud Graduate School of Business where he has been working as a Recruitment and Admissions Counselor since 2008. He is Assistant to the Head taking the place previously held by **Jerry Jiminez**.

Colloquia Showcase Scholarship

The English Department enjoyed a wide variety of speakers from within the department and from outside the UIC community at its Friday afternoon colloquia during the 2010-2011 academic year. This year, the following have presented or are scheduled to present their work at the colloquia: UIC Lecturer **Marsha Cassidy**, PhD; UIC PhD Candidates **Cynthia Cravens**, **Meg King**, **JoAnne Ruvoli**, **Jay Shearer**, **Alex Wulff**, **Snežana Žabić**; Professor **Godwin Agboka** (University of Houston) with UIC PhD students **Caroline Gottschalk-Druschke** and **Eui Kang**; Professor **Linda Gregerson** (University of Michigan), Professor **Daniel Gross** (University of California, Irvine), Professor **Robert Kaufman** (University of California, Berkeley), and author **Lidia Yuknavitch**.



PhD student **Meg King** presents her work as department members (left) listen.

English Department News

Lecturer **Marsha Cassidy**, PhD, is the recipient of the University of Illinois Distinguished Service Award. It is awarded to individuals who have consistently demonstrated extraordinary commitment, dedication, and service to the advancement of the University of Illinois. This University-level award is conferred on one recipient each year on each of the three University of Illinois campuses. Also, Cassidy organized and chaired a panel entitled, "Exploring the Gendered World of *Mad Men*" and presented the paper, "Betty Vomits: *Mad Men*, History, and the 1950s Body" at the 2010 annual conference of Console-ing Passions, the International Conference on Television, Video, and Feminism.

Lecturer **Cathy Birkenstein-Graff**, PhD, delivered a lecture at Norwalk Community College in Norwalk, Connecticut. She and Professor **Gerald Graff** delivered two lectures at the annual CCCC conference in Louisville, Kentucky, and gave a three-day college-readiness summer workshop for high school teachers for the Urban Education Institute at the University of Chicago in addition to numerous other lectures and workshops.

Professor **Ainsworth Clarke** received an Institute for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship for the spring of 2010 to work on his book manuscript, *Apoetic Thinking*,



Professor **Susan Levine** (History, UIC), incoming Director of the Institute for the Humanities, joins Professor **Mary Beth Rose** at a reception honoring Rose's thirteen years as Director of the Institute.

Fugitive Writing: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Unmaking of the "Negro."

Professor **Ralph Cintron** gave the Josephine Jones Public Lecture at the University of Colorado in late February. The title of his talk was "An Anthropology of Democracy: Thinking Freedom, Right and Left." He will also be a Thomas Watson Symposium Scholar and will give the keynote note address at the Thomas R. Watson Conference at the University of Louisville.

Lecturer **Virginia Costello**, PhD, recently earned her PhD from Stony Brook University, New York. Her dissertation is called "Revolutionizing Literature: Anarchism in the Lives and Works of Emma Goldman, Dorothy Day, and Bernard Shaw." In October, she gave a paper called "Friendly Foes: Benjamin Tucker and Bernard Shaw" at the Cultural Center as a part of the Chicago Shaw Symposium, and she presented "My Beautiful Ideal": Sexuality in Emma Goldman's Anarchism" at the Gender and Women's Studies/ African American Studies Colloquium at UIC in October as well.

Professor **Madhu Dubey** received a UIC Graduate Mentoring Award. She was chosen by a committee of faculty and students for her outstanding commitment to, and development of, graduate mentoring.

Professor **Lisa Freeman** was awarded a 2010-2011 NEH Fellowship at the Newberry Library to complete work on her book *Antitheatricity and the Body Public: From the Renaissance to the NEA*. She was also awarded a Mellon Research Fellowship at the Virginia Historical Society for related research on the Richmond Theater fire. She will be in residence at the Newberry from January-December 2011.

The Association of Departments of English (a division of the MLA) awarded Profes-



Professor **Rachel Havrelock** offers advice for prospective graduate students at the fall 2010 Graduate School Workshop. Workshop participants Academic Advisor **David Krstovich**, PhD student **Jen Moore**, and Professor **Christina Pugh** look on.

sor **Gerald Graff** with the 2010 Francis Andrew March Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession of English Studies which honors "exceptional service to the profession of English." The award was presented at a special session on Graff's work at the January 2011 MLA convention in Los Angeles.

Professor **Rachel Havrelock** was awarded an American Academy for Jewish Research Special Initiatives Grant, 2010-2011, for her research on the map of Israel/Palestine.

Visiting Scholar **Oren Izenberg** was awarded an NEH faculty research fellowship for the 2010-2011 academic year to work on his second book manuscript *Lyric Poetry and the Philosophy of Mind*.

In November, Professor **Mary Beth Rose** was honored for thirteen years of distinguished leadership as the Director of the UIC Institute for the Humanities at a reception hosted by the UIC Department of English and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She stepped down as director of the Institute at the end of the fall semester and, following a sabbatical, she will join the English Department full-time.

Professor **Alfred Thomas** was chosen as a University Scholar and was honored at a reception in October. University Scholars are nominated by their peers as the best in their field. Each receives a monetary award over three years to advance their research, teaching, and scholarship.

Department News



Professor **Luis Urrea** won the 2010 Edgar® Award for Best Short Story for his story “Amapola,” published in the book *Phoenix Noir* (Akashic Books, 2009). Sponsored by the Mystery Writers of America, the Edgar Awards highlight the best writing in this genre. Urrea was also awarded an LAS Distinguished Professorship in this academic year. This title has been extended to only a few 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.”

Professor **Terence Whalen** was one of eleven recipients of this year’s Silver Circle Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award is one of the university’s highest honors for teaching and is based on nominations solicited from graduating seniors.

Senior Lecturers **Charitianne Williams** and **Mary Hibbeler** will present “Exceptions to practice: Non-native proficiency in collaborative Writing Center discourse,” at the TESOL 2011 Annual Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. Sessions involving Non-native English speakers are often described in Writing Center research as deviations from ideal practice. Williams and Hibbeler use discourse analysis to investigate these moments of deviation and challenge the notion that NNES linguistic and cultural proficiency prompts these exceptions.

Senior Lecturer **Charitianne Williams** was selected by the Teaching Committee to receive the 2010 Lecturer Award. Intended to recognize the best of the very dedicated work our lecturers engage in, the Lecturer Award is based on a portfolio of teaching materials.



PhD students **Jocelyn Eighan**, **Lyndee Yamshon**, and **Snežana Žabić** at the release party for Professor **Cris Mazza**’s book *Various Men Who Knew Us as Girls*.

Lecturer Publications

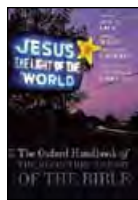
J. Linn Allen has two short stories in the fall issue of *Hamilton Stone Review*, another in the print edition of *Spirits*, the literary magazine of Indiana University Northwest, and has had another accepted for inclusion in the Static Movement anthology, *Oil*.

Gary Buslik’s essay “Lanterns of Fear” will appear in the anthology *Best Travel Writing 2011* (Travelers’ Tales, spring 2011).

Marsha Cassidy’s essay, “My Students and Betty White: American Television History in the Classroom,” has been accepted for publication in *Cinema Journal*.

Professor Publications

Professor **Judith Gardiner** co-edited *Feminist Studies* 36.2, the Summer 2010 Special Issue titled “Reinventing Mothers.”



Professor **Rachel Havrelock** contributed the opening chapter on the “Book of Genesis,” to *The Oxford Handbook to the Reception History of the Bible* (Oxford University Press, 2011). The book is edited by Professor Emeritus **Michael Lieb**, Emma Mason and Jonathan Roberts.



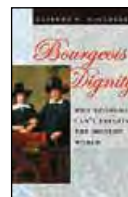
Visiting Scholar **Oren Izenberg**’s first book, *Being Numerous: Poetry and the Ground of Social Life*, was published by Princeton University Press in January 2011.



Professor **Cris Mazza**’s new novel, *Various Men Who Knew Us as Girls*, was released in February 2011.



Professor **Deirdre McCloskey**’s book, *Bourgeois Dignity: Why Economics Can’t Explain the Modern World*, was published by the University of Chicago Press in November 2010. It is the second of six volumes in her big literary and quantitative assessment of capitalism, “The Bourgeois Era.” The book was one of three lead books in the University of Chicago Press’ catalog last fall and has been widely and favorably reviewed.



Chris Glomski’s second full-length collection of poems, *The Nineteenth Century*, will be published by The Cultural Society, spring 2011.

This fall **Mimi Rosenbush** published a personal essay for the Sisterhood Blog of *The Jewish Daily Forward* and an article on changing Jewish Devon Avenue for the *Chicago Reader*. She also provided revision comments for Martha Kolln and Robert Funk’s upcoming 9th edition of *Understanding English Grammar*.

from the

Office of English Undergraduate Studies



Professor **Christina Pugh**, Director



David Krstovich, Academic Advisor

Among its many functions, the Office of English Undergraduate Studies provides English majors with ongoing support and guides them towards completion of major requirements. In addition, the office helps to inform students about the many career paths available to them, both inside and outside of academia. Professor **Christina Pugh** heads the office as Director of Undergraduate Studies, and **David Krstovich** serves as Academic Advisor for the English major.

Academic advising can greatly enhance a student's educational experience. In addition to offering students guidance on the timely completion of degree requirements, it can also help to inform them of opportunities that can enhance their resumes or applications to graduate or professional school and to increase their awareness of the many practical applications of an English major to everyday life. Careers in law, public relations, publishing, editing, nonprofit development, and teaching English at the high school or college levels are among the many professional paths open to English majors. Academic advising can help English majors to learn more about their career options, draft a plan for career exploration, and learn about the various department and campus resources available to them. Through academic advising, students can also begin to explore the option of graduate or professional school and clarify their post-graduate academic interests. The sooner students explore their options, the sooner they can make informed choices and prepare for life after graduation.

The Office of English Undergraduate Studies would like to remind students to take advantage of the following opportunities to help ensure their success at UIC:

ACADEMIC ADVISING: Schedule an academic advising appointment to discuss your progress towards graduation and course selection that will help you to complete credit hours while exploring your intellectual interests. Contact David Krstovich at dkrsto1@uic.edu to schedule an appointment.

WORKSHOPS ON JOBS IN ENGLISH AND APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL: Announcements are made each semester about workshops that offer tips for applying to graduate school or landing that first job. Contact David Krstovich for more details at dkrsto1@uic.edu.

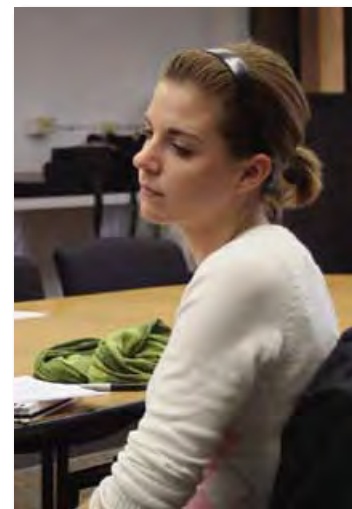
INTERNSHIPS: The best way to get started in a career is to undertake an internship that will give you hands-on experience in that field. The English Department offers internships in a variety of careers, including major media outlets and nonprofit organizations. Internships are a great way to gain experience, earn credit, and make valuable professional contacts. Speak to **Linda Landis Andrews** for more details (landrews@uic.edu).

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS: Stop by our office for details on different scholarships and awards. We strongly encourage students to compete for these awards.

GET CONNECTED: The E-Majors listserv provides English majors with announcements about opportunities available on and off campus, along with information on registration, office hours, and graduation. If you are not subscribed to the listserv, please contact David Krstovich at dkrsto1@uic.edu.

Graduate School Workshop

In the fall of 2010, Professor **Christina Pugh**, Director of English Undergraduate Studies, organized a Graduate School Workshop. This session was designed to provide guidance and support to English Majors who were considering pursuing an advanced degree. Speakers for the event included PhD candidate **Jennifer Moore**, Professor **Christina Pugh**, Professor **Rachel Havrelock** and Professor **Walter Benn Michaels**. Students in attendance came away from the workshop with valuable information about what a graduate degree can offer, along with important strategies for selecting the right program and generating a strong set of application materials.



Undergraduate English major **Nicole Krause**, recipient of the 2010 Robert and Corinne Silver Award, listens to advice about graduate school.



Graduate School Workshop, October 18, 2010.

Alumni Jobs Workshop



In the spring of 2011, **Linda Landis Andrews**, Internship Coordinator for the Department of English, organized a career workshop for English majors. The workshop was designed in a “speed networking” format, in which students were divided into small groups for circulation among tables headed by English alumni who have become successful professionals in their fields. Alumni speakers discussed their particular career paths and offered advice to current English majors about pragmatic steps they could take to launch their own careers. Alumni participants included **Matt Krecun**, Senior Communications Specialist, Integry Energy Group, Inc.; **Bernadette O’Shea**, Director of Development, Rush University Medical Center; **Dominiq Raccah**, Publisher and CEO, Sourcebooks, Inc.; and **Heather Thoms**, Senior Communications Specialist, Tellabs. Additional participants included **KJ Hardy**, Associate Director of Development, LAS Office of Advancement (UIC); **Katherine Parr**, Lecturer, UIC Department of English; **Robin Hursey**, Senior Academic Advisor (head of LAS Internship Program), LAS Advising Center; and **Elizabeth Herrera**, Assistant Director, UIC Career Services.



Students listen to Bernadette O’Shea.

from the Writing Center



Among writing centers nationally, the UIC Writing Center boasts several unique features. We have 27 tutors who are fluent in a language other than English, including languages rare at UIC such as Cambodian

and Mongolian. We also hold the record for group work: in the fall, classes visited the Writing Center 57 times, yielding 1,340 contact hours with students. We are collecting data on group work to see how its impact on learning differs from individual tutoring. Our data analysis for individual tutoring has generated some statistically significant results. We know that students who visit the Writing Center

are more likely to remain at UIC at a 10% higher rate than students who did not visit. We also know that first-year writing students who use the Center pass at a 4% higher rate than students who do not visit.

Two tutors received the Writing Center’s Rosenthal Social Justice Scholar Award: **Jessica Espinosa** and **Karin Mariscal**.

Both are secondary education majors, Jessica in History and Karen in English. These tutors have been coordinating the Future Teachers for Social Justice, which hosts panel discussions by new teachers for education majors.

In November, Jessica and Karen, along with **Sabrina Anfossi**, hosted “The Art of Teaching,” with UIC alumni teachers **Cynthia White** and **Arlen Hernandez** and Professor **Bill Ayers**.

Tutor **Dima Ansari** presented her senior thesis, “Peerness: A Learning Relationship between Writer and Tutor” at the English Department’s colloquium for seniors. Scholarship on peer tutoring is typically oriented toward training, but Dima’s study stakes out new territory by integrating psychological and political perspectives on tutoring to forge an interpretation that offers a richer model of this unique, controversial, and relatively new educational praxis.

On the basis of research by **Charitianne Williams**, the Writing Center has updated its training program, which now includes tutors analyzing transcripts of their tutoring sessions. The training is part of a growing educational program for tutors, outlined in the UIC Writing Center’s training handbook, authored by Writing Center Assistant Directors **Lydia Saravia**, **Lindsay Marshall**, **Aneeka Henderson**, **Alex Wulff**, **Charitianne Williams**, and Writing Center Director **Vainis Aleksa**, PhD. The tutor training program has also been augmented by a new training video, whose production was spearheaded by **Alex Wulff** and **Lindsay Marshall**. The video, available through Blackboard, focuses on improving the rate at which students return to the Writing Center.



The Writing Center presents:

**Fall 2011
Alumni Writing
Tutoring Day**

Students will have an opportunity to share their writing with alumni and talk to alumni about the role of writing in their careers. Lunch and refreshments will be served. More details will follow via e-mail.

Alumni News and Publications

Gary Buslik (PhD, English) was featured in a May 2010 article on *CNNMoney.com* titled “Ditching a \$500,000 Salary to Teach Lit.” After selling the alarm company he started in Chicago, he entered the PhD program at UIC, graduating in 2007. He now teaches part-time as a lecturer at UIC and writes books. Although he has taken a significant reduction in annual salary, he says, “I’ve never regretted my decision. I’m content to be sending Shakespeare lovers into the world.”



Maxine Chernoff (MA, English) and **Paul Hoover** (MA, English) have published many books of poetry and fiction since their graduation from UIC in the 1970s. Their translation of the poetry of the German Romantic poet, Hölderlin, *Selected Poems of Friedrich Hölderlin* (Omnidawn Publishing, 2008) won the PEN-USA Translation Award in 2009. Chernoff and Hoover are Professors of creative writing at San Francisco State University.

In 2009, **Keith Dorwick** (PhD, English) was the keynote speaker at the Great Plains Alliance for Computers and Writing, held at St. Cloud State University. The title of his keynote speech was “Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are: LGBTQ Teens and Twentysomethings in MySpace and YouTube.” His video “Ganymede” was accepted into the 2010 Southern Open at the Acadiana Center for the Arts in Lafayette, Louisiana, where he is Associate Professor of English at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Student News

PhD student **Maggie Andersen** has been invited to present at DePaul University’s 2011 Summer Writing Conference.



Stephanie Boese

PhD student **Stephanie Boese** was recently awarded a Chicago Consular Corps Scholarship. Among a large pool of very strong applicants, Boese was chosen as a recipient of this prestigious award of \$1000.

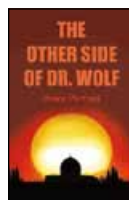
English majors **Rebecca Ginat** and **Monika Rastogi** were recognized by the Honors College for their scholarly research. Ginat received an Undergraduate Research Award from the Kabbes Fund for her project entitled “Moral Ambiguity?: A Look at Female Vampires in Direct Contrast to

their Male Analogs.” Rastogi received the same award for her project, “Didactic Entertainment or Break-Room Romance?: The Effect of Medical Dramas on Popular Culture.” Professor **Mark Canuel** served as Ginat’s mentor, and **Marsha Cassidy**, PhD, served as Rastogi’s mentor. The cash awards associated with these honors will support Ginat’s and Rastogi’s research.

PhD student **Caroline Gottschalk-Druschke** was awarded a renewal of the UIC Chancellor’s Supplemental Graduate Research Fellowship for her project “Developing a Rhetorical Understanding of Ecology: Arguments for (and Against) Conservation at the Watershed Scale.” She recently accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric at the University of Rhode Island. She will start there in August 2011 as Assistant Professor.

Tracey L. Lewis (BA, English) graduated from Norwich University’s Master of Science in Organizational Leadership program in June 2010.

Nnedi Okorafor’s (PhD, English) book *Who Fears Death* (DAW, 2010) was named a *Publishers Weekly*, *Amazon.com*, and *Library School Journal* 2010 Best Book of the Year and has been optioned for a film by Kisha Cameron-Dingle, to be directed by award-winning director Wanuri Kahiu. Her Young Adult novel *Akata Witch* (forthcoming from Viking Juvenile, April 2011) was selected as a *Publishers Weekly* Galley of the Day selection.



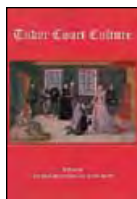
Bruce Portnoy, O.D., (BA, English) a practicing optometrist, recently published his action/adventure novel *The Other Side of Dr. Wolf* (iUniverse, 2009). Dr. Portnoy hopes his own writing success will encourage other alumni, semi-retired professionals, English graduates, and students to pursue writing sometime in their life. About his current activities, he writes: “Keeping busy seeing patients part time, substitute teaching in area high schools, enjoying grandchildren and writing; I find it most amusing to be labeled retired. From the scope of my various activities, I view myself more tired than retired.”

Two students majoring in English were among eight UIC undergraduates awarded Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships to study abroad during the spring 2010 semester. Sophomore **Sarang Sarah Lim** studied in Seoul, South Korea, and junior **Jonathan Marks**, a philosophy and English double-major, studied in Athens, Greece.

Annie Neahring, a double-major in English and anthropology, was awarded a 2010-2011 Olive and Alfred Kuehn Scholarship, a scholarship for women students in literary studies.

Undergraduate English major **Kaitlin Peters** was one of twelve students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences chosen to receive an Olive and Alfred Kuehn Scholarship for the 2009-2010 academic year.

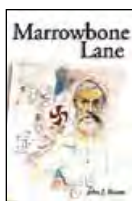
Alumni News and Publications



Anna Riehl (PhD, English) is Assistant Professor of English at Auburn University and Co-Director of the Auburn Summer in London Program. She co-edited with Thomas Betteridge an essay collection titled *Tudor Court Culture* (Susquehanna

University Press, 2010). Her monograph *The Face of Queenship: Early Modern Representations of Elizabeth I* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010) was published in May.

John Ronan's (MA, English) book, *Marrowbone Lane* (The Backwaters Press, 2009), was named a "Highly Recommended" book by the prestigious Boston Authors Club.



Alumni **Shawn K. Sullivan** and **Daniel P. Smith** are co-creators of "The Things Unsaid Project" (www.thingsunsaidproject.wordpress.com), which is described as "a daring new social art project that allows individuals the opportunity to voice their long-silent words and remind us all of our shared connections, emotions, and experiences." Sullivan currently works in the UIC Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. Smith is an award-winning, nationally published journalist.

Nadia Swerdlow (PhD, English) is Dean of Academic Affairs at Los Angeles Mission College. She and her husband (at Cal Tech) have a house in the foothills of the San Gabriel mountains, and enjoy the regular visits of bears, deer, possums, raccoons, amazing bird life, especially around their koi pond, which is quite appetizing to raccoons especially.

Jean Petrolle (PhD, English) is co-editor with Professor Emerita **Virginia Wright Wexman** of *Women and Experimental Filmmaking* (University of Illinois Press, 2005) and author of *Religion without Belief: Contemporary Allegory and the Search*



for Postmodern Faith (State University of New York Press, 2007). She has also published articles and essays about literature, film, and painting in a variety of scholarly and literary journals. She is Executive Co-Producer of the short film *A Clockmaker's Revelation*, which appeared in six film festivals during 2009, and won best Experimental Short at the South Beach Animation Festival. She is Associate Professor in the English Department at Columbia College, Chicago, Illinois, and is a Distinguished Faculty Fellow at the College.

David V. Urban (PhD, English) organized and presented a paper at a Festschrift presentation for Professor Emeritus **Michael Lieb** held at the Newberry Library on May 15, 2010. Urban is Associate Professor of English at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

NEWS FROM WRITING CENTER ALUMNI: **Cynthia Williams** (BA 2010) is an English teacher at Foreman High School. **Kathy Goodkin** (BA 2005) is Acting Director of the Writing Center at George Mason University. **Khalilah Ford** (BA, English 2004) is coordinating the writing tutors at Olive-Harvey College.

Five Writing Center alumni are teaching in Korea: **Sarah Christian** (TESOL MA 2010), **Laurel Waller** (BA 2009), **Randy Kim** (BA 2007), **Antoinette Seals** (BA 2004), and **Deanna Thompson** (BA 2010).



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Graduate Student Presentations

Dongho Cha is presenting “World Literature and the Ideology of Universalism: About the Ontology of Comparative Literature” at the 2011 Annual Conference of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Amy Gates attended the 2010 English Institute held at Harvard; the UIC Department of English sponsored her attendance. She presented “Eliminating the Intermediary: Bentham’s Auto-Icon as Romantic Artist and Art” at the 2010 conference of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism in Vancouver, British Columbia, and “The Fertile Tomb: Mary Shelley’s *The Last Man*” at the 2011 British Women Writers Conference at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Caroline Gottschalk-Druschke presented “Watershed as Inducement to Action: The Rhetoric of Agricultural Conservation Practice” at the National Communication Association Conference, San Francisco, California; “Starting and Maintaining a Rhetoric Society of America Student Chapter,” a roundtable presentation at the Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota; “Arguing Agriculture: County Government, Farmer Free-

dom, and Competing Visions of the Good Life” at the Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and “Evaluating a Watershed-Based Conservation Initiative,” a poster presentation at the National Science Foundation 2010 IGERT Project Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Julie Fiorelli presented “Limits of Racial Community in Expansive Space: The Formal Rendering of Black Internationalism in George Schuyler’s *Black Empire*” at the Contingent Communities Conference, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She is presenting “Raced Noir: A Spatial Comparison of John Okada’s *No-No Boy* and Chester Himes’s *If He Hollers, Let Him Go*” at the Critical Ethnic Studies Conference at University of California, Riverside.

David Frank Jakalski presented “The Terror of Individuation in Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s ‘Rime of the Ancient Mariner’ (1798)” at the Midwest Modern Language Association conference in Chicago, in November 2010.

Laura Krughoff presented “Caryl Churchill’s *Cloud Nine*: Ghosted Bodies, Haunted Past” at the 21st Annual UCLA Southland Graduate Student Conference.



PhD students **Brooke Wonders**, **M. Shelly Conner**, **Sacha Siskonen**, and **Brianna Noll**.

Lindsay Marshall had her paper, “The Essential Fix: Ecstatic Selves and the Rhetoric of Addiction” accepted for presentation at the American Comparative Literature Association’s 2011 conference in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Sein Oh presented “Fighting Doubt and Fear: Enlightenment Ideology in Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*,” at the Mid-West Conference on British Studies in Cleveland, Ohio. He presented “Travel of Troubles: Aesthetic Problem in Shelley’s *History of a Six Weeks’ Tour*” at the International Conference on Romanticism in Lubbock, Texas.

Jonathan Poore presented “Class, Culture and the ‘Post-Racial’ in W.E.B. Du Bois” at the Midwest Modern Language Association conference in Chicago, in November.

Monica Westin is giving a talk on the Istanbul Biennale at the 2011 ACLA conference, and she will be writing a guest blog on contemporary art for Robert Hariman’s *No Caption Needed* blog.



UIC English alumni **Heather Thoms**, **Matt Krecun**, **Bernadette O’Shea**, and **Dominique Raccab** (not pictured) volunteered at the spring 2011 Jobs for English Majors workshop, sharing their experiences in the world of work and offering tips for building a career and taking one’s English major into the job market.

The Gift that Keeps on Giving! Alumni Volunteerism

Graduates with a degree from LAS are counted among the members of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Association. Now more than 63,000 strong, the LASAA reflects the rich diversity of our student body. Volunteering with the LASAA is a wonderful way to connect with the College: our faculty, students and alumni.

Opportunities to volunteer are plentiful. Throughout the year, alumni share their time and talents on campus in many different ways. Alumni meet with students to talk about their career paths, speak on panels, offer short-term mentoring, attend networking events, and much more.

Make this the year you connect with the LAS Alumni Association. Contact us at LASConnect@uic.edu and we’ll help you find a volunteer opportunity of your own!

Graduate Student Publications

James Tadd Adcox edits the literary magazine *Artifice*, which he co-founded. The second issue was released in fall 2010 with a reading tour, funded in part by *Poets & Writers*, holding events in Chicago, Indianapolis, Baltimore, DC, New York, and Cambridge. The third issue of *Artifice Magazine* debuted in February, and features work by Michael Czyzyniejewski, Matt Bell, Donora Hillard, Davis Schneiderman, and Janey Smith, among others. Adcox has work recently published or forthcoming in *TriQuarterly*, *Keyhole Magazine*, and *Lamination Colony*.

Maggie Andersen's short story "Anyone's Devil" recently appeared in the *New Delta Review*.

Garrett J. Brown's nonfiction piece, "The Agony of St. Martin," is featured in the Winter/Spring 2011 issue of *TriQuarterly*.

Jocelyn Eighan's essay "The 'Other' Woman: An Analysis of Xenophobia, Women, and Shame in Judith Merrill's Short Stories" has been accepted for publication in an essay collection titled *Mortified: Representing Women's Shame*, edited by Patricia Moran and Erica Johnson.

Andrew Farkas has published "The Ballad of Ailin' Alan Smithee" which was a Special Mention in *Pushcart Prize XXXV* (2011). "Dead Man's Curve" was published in *Required #4*. "The First Circumnavigator" will appear in *PANK 5*.

Caroline Gottschalk-Druschke co-authored two essays published with other members of the department. "A Hybrid Genre Supports Hybrid Roles in Community-University Collaboration" by **Timothy Henningsen**, **Diane Chin**, PhD, Professor **Ann Feldman**, **Caroline Gottschalk-Druschke**, **Tom Moss**, **Nadya Pittendrigh**, and **Stephanie Turner Reich** appeared in *Going Public: What Writing Programs Learn from Engagement* (Utah State University Press, 2010). "Minutemen and the Subject of Democracy" by David Bleeden, **Caroline Gottschalk-Druschke**, and **Ralph Cintron** was published in *¡Marcha!: Latino Chicago and the Immigrant Rights Movement* (University of Illinois Press, 2010).

Virginia Konchan published the poems "Serenade" in *Waccamaw*; "John Keats" in *Poet Lore*; "Notes for a Non-Native Speaker" in *Hayden's Ferry Review*; "American Gothic" in *The Believer*; and four poems in *Notre Dame Review*. Her short fiction "Nude: A Study" appeared in *Ferocious Quarterly* and "The Perfect Night" appeared in *Mary Magazine*. She has also had literary reviews published in *Boston Review*, *Rain Taxi*, and *Sentence*.

Laura Krughoff's essay, "Quickening," appeared in Issue Two of the on-line journal *Required*. Her short story, "This is One Way," received the 2010 Washington Square Award for fiction and appeared in the Summer/Fall 2010 issue of *Washington Square Review*. On October 2, 2010, she read "This is One Way" at NYU's Lillian Vernon Creative Writers House at the *Washington Square Review* issue release event.

Jennifer Moore has poems published or forthcoming in *Fugue*, *Juked*, *Southampton Review*, *The Literary Bohemian*, and *decomp*. She received a Pushcart nomination from *Juked* for her poem "Haute Couture Grottesque, or Talking about My Generation," and also received an AWP Intro Journals Honorable Mention from Lynn Powell for her poem "Insomniac's Nocturne." A paper on Tao Lin and the poetics of failure is forthcoming in *The Offending Adam*.

Tyler Mills has two poems, "Pool" and "Record of Absence," forthcoming in the Spring 2011 issue of *Prairie Schooner*. Also, her poem "Standing Still" was published in *32 Poems* this past fall.

Sara Tracey's poem "Weathervane" was a finalist in *Harpur Palate's* Milt Kessler Poetry Prize, as well as the *Indiana Review* Poetry Prize. Her poem "Summer of Hammers and Whiskey" has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and was also nominated for the *Best New Poets* anthology. Her work has recently appeared or is forthcoming in *Blossombones*, *Crab Creek Review*, *Harpur Palate*, *Passages North*, and *Pebble Lake Review*.



PhD student **Andrew Farkas** reads his fiction at the Packingtown Review release party for Volume 2, May 24, 2010. Packingtown Review is the interdisciplinary journal of scholarship and art founded and developed by graduate students in the UIC Department of English.



PhD students **Jen Hammond** and **Sara Tracey** take a break from teaching summer classes during the Summer 2010 term.

Department of English Announces Student Awards

The Department of English announced award winners for the 2009-2010 academic year at its year-end celebration held Thursday, April 29, 2010. Graduate student awards went to **Caroline Gottschalk-Druschke**, Dean's Scholar Award and AAUW Dissertation Fellowship; **Meg King**, Provost's Award for Graduate Research; **Emilio Sauri**, Anne Hopewell Selby Award; **Cynthia Cravens**, Department of English Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award (formerly the Stern Award); and **Jonathan Poore**, Kogan Bonus Award.

The Program for Writers Awards were presented to **Brooke**



Marisol Velez, Raymond and Wilma Campion Award recipient

Wonders, Goodnow Award in Prose; and **Chad Heltzel**, Goodnow Award in Poetry.

Undergraduate student awards were presented to **Marisol Velez**, Raymond and Wilma Campion Award; **Linda Hoyos**, John and Jeanne Newton Scholarship; **Sarah Larson**, Anne Hopewell Selby Award; **Nicole Krause**, Robert and Corinne Silver Award; **Salwa Holloway**, Ernest C. Van Keuren Award and the English Department Creative Writing Award; and **Meghen Fueston**, English Department Critical Writing Award.

English Education Awards were presented to **Yenitza Zamora** and her mentor teacher Umbreen Quadeer, Woods-Lindley Prize.



Cynthia Cravens, Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award recipient

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