

Department of ENGLISH

Newsletter

Spring 2009

Inside this Issue

- Reading Series..... 1
- Department Colloquia..... 2
- Conferences 2
- Journals 2
- Faculty and Lecturers
- News 3
- Publications 4
- In Memoriam..... 3
- Alumni
- News 6-7
- Publications 4
- English Ed..... 7
- Students
- News 5
- Publications 4
- Presentations 5
- Undergrad Office 5
- Awards 8

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Message from the Department Head

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

The response to last year's newsletter was nothing short of overwhelming. Alumni who read about our department activities responded to us to let us know about their extraordinary achievements since receiving degrees at UIC: about books they have published, awards they have received, and career goals they have reached. We like to tell our current students about the value of an English major after graduation—about the importance of writing and critical thinking skills—and the evidence of these actual accomplishments gives added force to that message. Alumni are UIC's ambassadors to the world (as you will see in these pages, we're spread across the globe), and their successes speak volumes about the value of a UIC degree. As always, we welcome and encourage your thoughts, reactions, and further news, which you may send to englishnewsletteruic@gmail.com.

The department hired two faculty members in the fall of 2008, Assistant Professor **Anna Kornbluh** (PhD, UC Irvine), a specialist in Victorian literature and critical theory, and Assistant Professor **Sunil Agnani** (PhD, Columbia), a specialist in the literature and philosophy of the European enlightenment. We were also pleased to welcome **Christopher Hokanson** (PhD, Indiana University), a specialist in Victorian literature and detective fiction, as a CIC (Committee on Institutional Cooperation) Visiting Scholar, and Professor **Davis Schneiderman** (Wake Forest) as this year's Visiting Writer.

As this issue of the newsletter shows, the English department at UIC continues to offer both graduate and undergraduate students a vibrant interdisciplinary course of study that instigates new writing, new conversation, and new classroom discussion among students, scholars, and creative writers. It's this kind of atmosphere that encourages students and faculty not merely to make marks in their fields but to become leaders in them. Behind the scenes in our department programs, of course, UIC English continues to rely on the generous support of its donors among faculty, alumni, and friends of the department, who help students realize their academic goals and pursue brilliant futures beyond the university. To make a contribution to the department's General Fund, visit the Giving page at our department's website, at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/giving/giving.html>.

Yours truly,

Mark Canuel
Professor and Head

Program for Writers Sponsors Readings



UIC alumnae and Lewis University Professors **Jackie White** and **Simone Muench** with UIC Professor **Jennifer Ashton** at a Hull House Reading, February 2009.

The Department of English Program for Writers continues its popular reading events. The Writers at Work series features work in progress from current graduate students. In September 2008, **Laura Krughoff** and **Roxanne Pilat** read their work; the November reading featured **Todd Adcox** and **D. Star Costello**. The Hull House Friday Night Reading Series features work by current graduate students, faculty members,

continued on page 2

Program for Writers continued from page 1

and alumni. Readings held in the fall 2008 semester featured graduate students **Maggie Anderson**, **Shelly Connor**, **Matthew Corey**, **Jocelyn Eighan**, **Andy Farkas**, **Jenn Hawe**, **Jen Moore**, **Derek Phillips**, and **Lyndee Yamshon**.

Spring Hull House Friday Night Reading Series events included a reading on February 6, 2009, featuring Professor **Christina Pugh** and UIC alumnae **Kristy Odelius** (Professor, North Park University) and **Simone Muench** (Professor, Lewis University). On March 13, 2009, visiting writer **Davis Schneiderman** and PhD student **Megan Milks** read their work.

On Friday, April 3, 2009, the Program for Writers hosts its 2009 One-on-One Reading Series event featuring PhD student **Jennie Berner** and writer Carol Anshaw. The One-on-One Reading series pairs a student from the Program for Writers with a writer of national repute.

English Department Colloquia Feature Emerging Research

The Friday afternoon English department colloquia provide a forum for UIC faculty and graduate students as well as invited guests from outside UIC to present their current work and for the English community to engage in ongoing conversation about these presentations. During the 2008-2009 academic year, the following

have presented or are scheduled to present their work at the colloquia: UIC faculty member Professor **Mary Beth Rose**; UIC Visiting Writer, Professor **Davis Schneiderman**; UIC PhD students **Carrie Messenger**, **James Pate**, **Mathew Pavesich**, and **Brian Sheerin**; CIC Fellow **Christopher Hokanson** (PhD, Indiana University), Professor Alicia Ostriker (Rutgers University), and Professor Pheng Cheah (Department of Rhetoric, Berkeley). The annual PhD colloquium invited cultural criti-fictionalist Professor Larry McCaffery (San Diego State University), and Victorian scholar Professor Caroline Levine (University of Wisconsin-Madison).

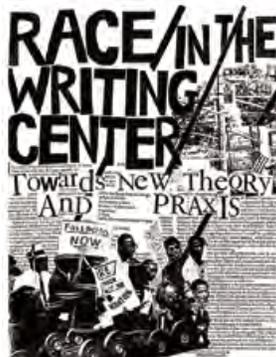


PhD student Carrie Messenger reads from her work.

Writing Center Hosts National Conference

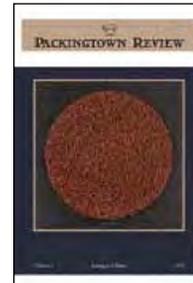
In Spring 2008, the Writing Center held its second national conference in the series "Writing Centers as Public Space." The theme, "Race in the Writing Center," investigated how peer tutors address race in the academy. Keynote presentations were given by Frances Condon of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and UIC's **Kevin Kumashiro**. UIC English Department alumni **Erec Smith** (Drew University), and **Vershawn Ashanti Young** (University of Iowa) gave presentations as well.

Current UIC English department lecturers and students presenting their research included **Gissel Escobedo**, **Charitianne Williams**, **Kimberly Norris**, **Lydia Saravia**, **Leane Dostaler**, **Aneeka Henderson**, **Alex Wulff**, **Somaiyya Ahmad**, **Helen Rehn**, and **Ashvin Kini**. The conference was organized by a committee of Writing Center Assistant Directors chaired by **Lindsay Marshall**. **Vainis Aleksa** (PhD, English) is the Director of the Writing Center. The conference poster was designed by undergraduate English major **Vicky Lim**.



PACKINTOWN REVIEW

Packintown Review, the new interdisciplinary journal of scholarship and art, developed by graduate students in the English Department, debuts in Spring 2009. The first issue features work by William Ayers, Ricardo Cortez Cruz, Brenda Hillman, Paul Hoover, Tung-Hui Hu, Alessandra Lynch, Sheila E. Murphy, Davis Schneiderman, Sun Yung Shin, Rosmarie Waldrop, Curtis White, and more. For more information, the call for submissions, and information about purchasing a copy, visit the journal website: www.packintownreview.com.



electronic book review (ebr)

Ebr (electronic book review) is a journal of critical writing produced and published by writers for writers. Recently, **Eric Dean Rasmussen** (PhD, English) edited and wrote the introduction for ebr's "Senseless Resistances" gathering twelve essays that question the model of cultural resistance and suggest alternatives for the engagement of literary studies with networked, ecological, economic, and communicative systems. This collection of essays and more are available at <http://www.electronicbookreview.com/>.

Mediations

PhD student **Emilio Sauri**, Editorial Manager of *Mediations*, the journal of the Marxist Literary Group, announced in December 2008 the publication of Volume 23, Number 2. The current issue, "History, Subjectivity," features efforts to conceptualize political subjectivity in the present moment. As always, PDF versions of individual articles and of the whole issue are available on the *Mediations* website at <http://www.mediationsjournal.org>.

Institute for the Humanities Sponsors Conference

The Institute for the Humanities sponsored "The Humanities and the Family: A Conference" (March 23-24, 2009). The conference explored the contributions of the disciplines of the Humanities to debating and constructing ideas and representations of the family. The conference was organized by the 2007-08 Institute for the Humanities Executive Committee, which included Professor **Mary Beth Rose** (Director) and Professor **Lisa Freeman**. Professor Rose gave a paper at the conference and Professor Freeman moderated a panel.

English Department News

Professor Emeritus **Michael Anania** won the 2008 Charles T. Angoff Award for Poetry.

Lecturer **Patrick Culliton** was recently awarded a \$7,000 Artists Fellowship Award in Poetry from the Illinois Arts Council.



The Jane Addams Hull-House Museum hosted a book release and conversation with Professor **Lennard Davis** in November 2008, which featured his latest book *Obsession: The Biography of a Disease* (University of Chicago Press, 2008). The book was named by the *Chicago Tribune* one of the five best books by Chicagoans in 2008.

Professor **Judith Kegan Gardiner** presented an invited lecture on Female Masculinity at University of Osnabrueck, Germany, in December 2008.

Professor **Gerald Graff** was President of MLA in 2008, culminating in his presidential address at the annual convention on December 28. During the year, Professor Graff and Lecturer **Cathy Birkenstein-Graff** published co-authored articles on academic writing in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Academe*. Professor Graff also delivered the keynote address at the annual English Institute meeting at Harvard University.

Professor **Robin Grey** was one of two recipients of this year's UIC Flame Award for Teaching Excellence, awarded by the Alumni Association. The award is based on a significant accumulation of nominations from UIC alumni; according to the Alumni Association, the award is "given to exceptional UIC educators who have made a lasting impression on their students' lives and inspired students by 'lighting the flame' of desire for intellectual growth and lifelong learning." This is the latest of many teaching honors that she has received over the years, including a Silver Circle Award and a UIC Teaching Recognition Award.



Professor **Chris Messenger** received a Graduate Mentoring Award from the Graduate College at UIC. Out of an extremely distinguished pool of nominees, Professor Messenger was chosen by a committee of faculty and students for his outstanding commitment to, and development of, graduate mentoring.

Professor **Walter Benn Michaels** was selected as one of this year's University Scholars. This is a three-year award that recognizes outstanding scholarly contributions to the university and to the academic profession as well as excellence in teaching.

Professor **Christina Pugh** received the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America in April of 2008, for her poem "I and Thou." The award was for a poem on a humanitarian theme.



Professor Emerita **A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff** was honored on May 16-17, 2008, by the Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier III, France. The international symposium on "Before Yesterday: The Long History of Native American Writing" was held in her honor and in recognition of "her long commitment to the study of Native American Literature."

The city of Pasadena, California, has chosen Professor **Luis Urrea's** book *The Hummingbird's Daughter* (Bay Back Books, 2006) for its "One City, One Story" program, which encourages the entire city to read and discuss a single work of fiction.

Blondeen Jones Retires

Blondeen Jones retired this year after 30 years of service at UIC. For the last seven years, she has been an essential part of the Writing Center. According to **Vainis Aleksa**, Director of the Writing Center, "We function because of her dedication, courage, and cheerfulness in managing a mountain of daunting and constantly growing behind-the-scenes administrative tasks. To many of us, she has become much more—a loyal colleague, a mentor, a friend."



In Memoriam

Elliot L. Judd

Professor **Elliot Judd** died on December 9, 2008, at his home in Chicago. He is survived by his wife, Kathy; children, Isaac, Alexander, Yael; daughter-in-law, Alison; and grandson, Avery.

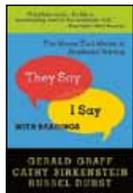
Professor Judd was a member of the UIC community for almost 30 years and was the beloved director of the TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) Program for most of that time. He was also President of International TESOL from 2005-2006 and was the founding editor of the TESOL Journal. Much in demand as a speaker, he gave plenary presentations, papers, and workshops on every continent. His academic work focused on the socio-political factors that have shaped U.S. language policy, both past and present, and he was a champion of the linguistics rights of speakers of all languages. Most of all, however, he was a teacher, devoted to his students. A funeral service was held at the Temple Menorah in Chicago, Illinois, and a memorial was held at UIC in January.

Mary Thale

Professor Emeritus Mary Thale died on October 7, 2008, at Evanston Hospital, surrounded by family members. She was 84. A longtime resident of Wilmette and a graduate of DePaul, she received her PhD in English at Northwestern. She taught English at the University of Illinois at Chicago from its opening at Navy Pier in 1946 until her retirement in the early 1990s, specializing in eighteenth-century literature. She also taught at the University of Chicago, National College of Education, and Mundelein College. Her interest in eighteenth-century English social and political history led her to edit *The Autobiography of Francis Place* (Cambridge, 1972), the memoir of a tailor and political reformer. In 1983 she published *Selections from the Papers of the London Corresponding Society* (Cambridge). She did pioneering research on debate societies in 1700s England; perhaps the most notable among her many writings on the subject concerned the role of women in these societies.

Publications by Faculty

Professor **Judith Kegan Gardiner** is co-editor with Leisa Meyer of the *Feminist Studies* Special Issue on Chicana Studies (34.1 & 2: Spring/Summer 2008) <<http://www.feministstudies.org/issues/vol-30-39/34-1-2.html>>. Her essay “What Happened to Socialist Feminist Women’s Studies Programs? A Case History and Some Speculations” appears in *Feminist Studies* (34.3: Winter 2008), “The 1970s issue.”



In December 2008 “*They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*” by Professor **Gerald Graff** and Lecturer **Cathy Birkenstein-Graff** was published by W. W. Norton in an expanded edition with readings and an added co-author, Russel Durst.

In December 2008, Professor **Gerald Graff’s** “Critical Controversies” edition of Shakespeare’s play *The Tempest* (coedited with James Phelan) was published in a revised edition by Bedford/St. Martin’s.

The French translation of Professor **Walter Benn Michaels’s** *The Trouble with Diversity—La Diversité contre L’égalité*—has just been published by Raisons d’Agir.

Professor **Christina Pugh’s** new book of poems, *Restoration* (Northwestern University Press / TriQuarterly Books, 2008), explores the fascination of dreams and their aftermaths. By coupling dream logic with Platonic dialogues, the poems in *Restoration* redefine knowledge as a form of uncanny remembrance that is only dimly accessible to our waking lives.



Publications by Lecturers

Lecturer **Gary Buslik’s** new book, *A Rotten Person Travels the Caribbean* (Traveler’s Tales, 2008), was ranked #1 on Amazon’s Caribbean book sales list for October. A review in the November issue of *Islands* magazine calls it “a laugh-out-loud, gut-level-honest collection of travel stories...the perfect guide for what not to do on your next getaway.”



Lecturer **Marsha Cassidy’s** essay, “Touch, Taste, Breathe: Synaesthesia, Sense Memory, and the Selling of Cigarettes on Television, 1948-1971” is forthcoming in Routledge’s *Convergent Media History*, edited by Janet Staiger and Sabine Hake. The essay applies theories of phenomenology and the body to the study of media history.

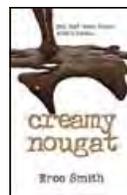
Publications by Alumni



Luisa A. Igloria’s (PhD, English) new book, *Juan Luna’s Revolver* (University of Notre Dame Press, January 2009) is the winner of the 2009 Ernest Sandeen Poetry Prize. Igloria is a poet and a tenured Associate Professor in the MFA Creative Writing Program at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

Orange Crush, the third book by **Simone Muench** (PhD, English), has been accepted by Sarabande Books for publication in 2010. The Sarabande editors said, “We have never read a book like this and we’re very happy to publish it.” Muench is an Assistant Professor at Lewis University.

Kristy Odellius (PhD, English) published *Strange Trades* (Shearsman Books), her first full-length collection of poetry, in September 2008. She is an Assistant Professor of English at North Park University where she teaches poetry and British Romantic literature.



Erec Smith (PhD, English) recently published a novel, *Creamy Nougat* (Community Press, January 2008). Smith is an Assistant Professor of English/Writing, Director of the University Writing Center, and Special Assistant of Diversity at Drew University.

Publications by Students

PhD student **Ryan Brooks** has an essay titled “The Narrative Production of ‘Real Police’” forthcoming in an anthology called *Down to “The Wire”: Urban Decay and American Television* published by Continuum, forthcoming September 2009.

PhD student **Andrew Farkas’s** book *Self-Titled Debut* won the Subito Press Book Competition. The prize is publication, copies of the book, and a reading at the University of Colorado during the spring semester of 2009. A collection of short, in-

novative fictions, *Self-Titled Debut* includes works of parody, pastiche, surrealism, irrealism, all held together by humor.

PhD student **Sara Tracey** has a chapbook titled *Flood Year* forthcoming from Dancing Girl Press in September 2009.

Student News

PhD student **Garrett Brown**'s first poetry book, *Manna Sifring*, won the 2009 Liam Rector First Book Prize from Briery Creek Press. The prize is \$1000, publication, copies of the book, a broadside of the title poem, and a reading at Longwood University. The book is due out in March.

PhD student **Caroline Gottschalk-Druschke** has received a National Science Foundation IGERT fellowship from the Landscape, Ecological, and Anthropogenic Processes (LEAP) Program at UIC. According to its website, "LEAP seeks to integrate a variety of scientific fields with relevant economic and social science disciplines to prepare students for careers in environmental science, policy, and conservation practice."

PhD student **Matt Oakes** was one of ten international students at UIC to win the Chicago Consular Corps Scholarship, administered by the Office of International Affairs.

UIC undergraduate **Danbee Paek** of Westmont, Illinois, was accepted into the TaLK (Teach and Learn in Korea) scholars program last summer. Paek was inspired to apply in part by a proposal she wrote for a composition class taught by PhD student **Roxanne Pilat** in the Fall of 2007. During the 2008-2009 academic year, she has been teaching English to rural South Korean students, while learning the culture and language of her own ancestors. At a recent ceremony in Seoul, Paek was awarded top honors for her essay on her experiences.

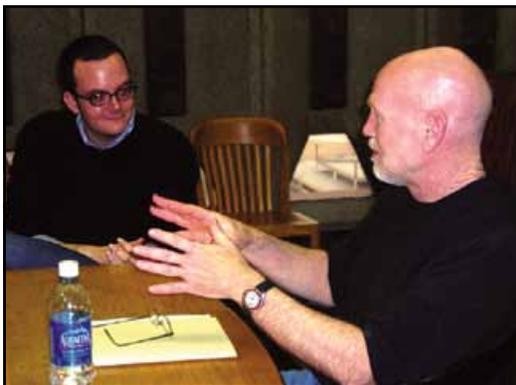
PhD student **Roxanne Pilat** attended the New York Writers' Institute last summer at Skidmore College, where she was part of Phillip Lopate's nonfiction workshop.

Justin Sherwood, a junior majoring in English and minoring in Moving Image Arts, presented his paper "Into Great Silence: A Metaphorical Analysis" at the Midwest Undergraduate Film Conference, April 11-12, 2008, at the University of Notre Dame. In the paper, Sherwood uses aspects of film criticism and film creation to analyze Philip Gröning's 2005 film *Into Great Silence*, a film about the Grand Chartreuse Monastery.

PhD student **Caleb Spencer** was awarded the prestigious two-year Harvey Fellowship, designed for students who aim to integrate their Christian faith with their graduate research.

PhD student **Patrick Van de Wille** was recently named vice president of the corporate communications practice of FD, one of the world's largest financial communications firms. At UIC, Patrick focuses on the rhetoric of corporations and business.

In March 2008, Croatian bi-weekly *Zarez* published an interview with PhD student **Snežana Žabić** about her poetry and her feminist/leftist activism. The interview with Žabić is in Croatian, and can be read in an online edition of the issue at <http://www.zarez.hr/226/zariste6.html>.



PhD student **Matthew Corey** with Professor **Ralph M. Berry** (Florida State University) after Berry's Spring 2008 colloquium presentation.

Office of English Undergraduate Studies

- **Advising Information and Registration:** **Julie Hau**, English academic advisor, is available to help you select classes, to evaluate your progress toward graduation, to provide assistance with career decision-making, and to offer referrals to various campus resources. E-mail Julie at jmhau@uic.edu for an appointment. Hours are also posted on the English department's webpage.
- **Internships:** Did you know that employers are looking for graduates to have two internship experiences? Take English 202 followed by English 493, the English Internship. The contact person is **Linda Landis Andrews** at landrews@uic.edu.
- **Career and Resume Writing Workshops and Applying to Graduate School:** In the fall and spring semesters, workshops are available to English majors. Applying to graduate school and assistance with career decision-making and resume writing/job interviewing are offered. Contact Julie with questions and to sign up.
- **Check it out:** The bulletin boards outside of 1931 UH are a resource on graduate school, careers, and advising information. For instance, information on scholarships and awards available to English majors is posted there.
- **Tell us about it:** UIC English major graduates: we'd like to hear from you. Contact us at englishnewsletteruic@gmail.com with updates on career developments.
- **Get connected:** Current UIC English majors, are you subscribed to the English majors listserv? If not, e-mail Julie at jmhau@uic.edu.



Graduate Student Presentations

English department graduate students have presented their work at conferences around the country this year. **Candace Crawford** (MA, English) and PhD students **Matthew Corey**, **D. Star Costello**, **Amy Gates**, and **Roxanne Pilat** presented creative and critical work at the Illinois Philological Association conference in April 2008 at Milliken University in Decatur. **Roxanne Pilat** presented a paper to the College Literacy and Learning SIG at the International Reading Association in May in Atlanta, Georgia. PhD students **Garrett Brown** and **Amy Gates** presented papers at the International Conference on Romanticism at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, in October 2008. PhD student **JoAnne Ruvoli** organized a panel titled "Shaping Migration: From the Old Country to Some Newer Kind of World" for the Forty-first Annual Conference of the American Italian Historical Association at Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut in November 2008; Ruvoli, **Lauren H. Braun** (History), and **Roxanne Pilat** presented papers as part of that panel. PhD student **Danielle Christmas** presented a paper at the British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference in Savannah, Georgia, in February 2009. PhD student **D. Star Costello** presented a paper at the Twenty-First Annual Stony Brook Manhattan Graduate Student Conference in New York City in February 2009. PhD students **David Jakalski** and **Amy Gates** had papers accepted for presentation at the British Women Writers Conference held at University of Iowa in Iowa City in April 2009. PhD student **Jennifer Moore** presented a paper at the annual Graduate English Organization conference at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, in April 2009.

Alumni News

Pavan Bapu (BA, English) has been hired to produce a documentary for the Tiz Media Foundation and Northwestern University. The documentary follows a group of high school minority students who participate in a multimedia educational program called Mindrap. According to Bapu, “The program encourages minority students to pursue science careers by integrating hands-on science lessons with hip-hop.” The film has a running time of forty minutes, and the final cut was screened at Northwestern University in January 2009. Bapu has recently been hired by Harpo Productions.

Frances Botkin (PhD, English), an Associate Professor at Towson University, won a Fulbright Award to go to Kingston, Jamaica. She recently returned from nine months of research and teaching at the University of the West Indies. Her book project is titled *Thieving Three-Fingered Jack: Transnational Appropriations of a Jamaican Outlaw*. She is also co-editing a special issue of *Romantic Circles Praxis Series* with Paul Youngquist on the Black Atlantic. She has had pieces on Maria Edgeworth and Sydney Owenson published in the past year.

Brandon Clayton (BA, English) has accepted a paid internship position with Cyber Technologies. During the seven-month internship, he will spend part of each day in a classroom setting and the other part of the day working in the office writing press releases and pitches, learning how to blog, learning the ins and outs of insurance companies, finding leads, and furthering his knowledge of the corporate world.

Fred Gardaphé (PhD, English) was recently named Distinguished Professor of Italian American Studies by the City University of New York. In April, he delivered the keynote lecture entitled “Beyond the Immigrant Paradigm: Identities and the Future of Italian American Culture” at a conference with the theme “Italians in the Americas” hosted by the John D. Calandra Italian/American Institute (Queens College, CUNY).

Brad Gardner (BA, English) recently started working as an Admissions Counselor in the UIC Office of Admissions.

In June 2008, **Joseph Harmon** (MA, English) gave an invited talk, “How Scientists Communicate: Past, Present, Future,” in Philadelphia at the annual meeting of the Society for Technical Communication. Harmon works as senior editor for the labs at Argonne National Laboratory. He has co-authored two recent books on scientific writing.

Leigh Hellman (BA, English), a 2008 UIC Honors College graduate with a concentration in creative writing (fiction), was one of 80 American students selected this year for a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea. She left for Korea in early July 2008; after orientation and language courses, she lived with a host family and taught English to South Korean secondary school students. Hellman is also among the first UIC students to graduate from the Chicago Civic Leadership Certificate Program (CCLCP).

Nels P. Highland (PhD, English) has recently been granted tenure and promoted in the Department of Rhetoric and Professional Writing at the University of Hartford. He is the Director of the First-Year Reading and Writing Program, Director of Gender Studies, and coordinator of the Emerging Technologies Pilot Program.

Brandi (Mora) Johnston (BA, English) completed Basic Training for the Air Force in September 2008. She is currently a student at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, where she expects to be for the next two years. She has been assigned to learn Arabic as part of her language training, which she reports is “challenging, but also fun.”

Megy Karydes (BA, English) is the owner of public relations firm Karydes Consulting which she established in 2007. According to her website (<http://www.karydesconsulting.com>), Karydes’s current work includes projects with eco-friendly and fair trade organizations, non-profit groups, retailers, interior designers, manufacturers, and website developers. Karydes is married to fellow UIC alumnus and Communications major **Matt Krecun** who has worked for Peoples Energy in marketing for the past nine years. The two met while they both worked for *The Chicago Flame*.

Internship Central
Connect with Undergraduates

English majors benefit from hands-on experience in writing, editing, and contributing their ideas on the job before graduation. Their resumé's expand, and they gain the confidence essential to finding a full-time job. They are available to work as interns in a variety of organizations, large and small, including the media, non-profits, publications, and associations. If you could use an intern to work 12-15 hours a week, please consider a UIC English major. Contact **Linda Landis Andrews** at landrews@uic.edu to discuss this opportunity.

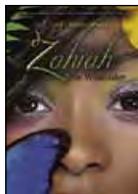
Katie Klocksinn (BA, English) took the internship class taught by **Linda Landis Andrews** in Spring 2007 where she interned at Kurtis Productions. She is currently working at Towers Productions. A documentary she worked on after graduation titled *What's the Matter with Kansas?* examines how the right wing won the heart of America. The website and trailer for the documentary are now available at <http://www.whatsthematterwithkansas.com/>. Klocksinn is grateful for her internship experience and the help she received from the UIC program and writes: “I’m so happy to be working at telling stories for a living!”

Connie Lee (BA, English) credits the UIC undergraduate English internship program with helping her get started on her career. She currently works at KBC-TV in Chicago as a reporter for AAN (Asian-American Network) News where she does anything and everything from producing shows, going on location for stories, writing scripts, and anchoring the weekly broadcasts. She reports, “I’ve even learned how to capture stories and use the editing equipment to complete the reports.”

Cristina Marvelli (MA, English) is a “veteran high school teacher” in Dallas, Texas.

Alumni News

Nnedi Okorafor's (PhD, English) novel *Zahrah the Windseeker* (Houghton Mifflin, 2005; illustrated version published in Nigeria in 2008 by Kachifo Ltd.) won the 2008 Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature. This novel was shortlisted for the Parallax Award and Kindred Award in 2006, a finalist for the 2005 Golden Duck and Garden State Teen Choice awards, and nominated for a Locus Award (Best First Novel) in 2005. Her second novel, *The Shadow Speaker* (Hyperion/Disney, 2007) has characters from, and takes place in, the countries of Niger and Nigeria. *The Shadow Speaker* was a Booksense Pick for Winter 2007/08, a 2008 Cooperative Children's Book Center choice, and a finalist for the *Essence* Magazine Literary Award and the Andre Norton Award. It is also a 2008 NAACP Image Award nominee, a Tiptree Honor Book, and a Locus Magazine Recommended Book. She also won the Macmillan Writer's Prize for Africa for her book titled *Long Juju Man*. Okorafor is a Visiting Professor at Chicago State University.



Lunch with a Student

Alums willing to chat with a student about their employment experience after college are invited to join a new program called "Lunchbook." Those interested will be given the e-mail address of a student who is eager to meet for lunch and hear about the transition from college to professional life. Please write to **Linda Landis Andrews** (landrews@uic.edu) to set up the lunch or discuss internship connections.

Grace Reband (BA, English) is opening her own daycare center. She has used the knowledge and skills she developed during her UIC English internship experience to create the contract and other documents for the center, which is located in Romeoville, Illinois.

Michelle Paulsen (BA, English 1989, MA, English 1992) is an Associate Professor of English at The Victoria College, Victoria, Texas, where she recently received tenure. Paulsen has published four books of poetry, and her poetry has been published in numerous journals.

Eric Dean Rasmussen (PhD, English) is currently on a semester-long visit as Assistant Professor of Humanistic Informatics/Digital Culture in the Department of Linguistic, Literary, and Aesthetic Studies at the University of Bergen, Norway.

Ron Scheasby (BA, English) graduated from UIC with a degree in English in 1969. He went on to receive an MA from DePaul in 1971, and a doctorate from NIU in 1997. He has been a full-time Assistant Professor of Writing (non-tenure track) at Loyola for the past ten years. He is also the Assistant Director of English Majors and has had a number of publications including a book of poetry, short stories, and scholarly articles.

Nadia Swerdlow (PhD English) has recently moved with her husband to Pasadena, California. She is at Cal Poly in Pomona where she works as an administrator who provides oversight to the Writing Center, the Learning Resource Center, the Early Assessment Program, the Test Center and various other areas. She writes, "of all the students I've ever taught, I still love UIC students the best."

English Education Alumni Gather

The fifth annual UIC English Education Program/LAS Alumni Association (LASAA) reunion was held the evening of Wednesday, October 15, 2008, at the Pompei Restaurant. The reunion provides an opportunity for English Education graduates and instructors to enjoy dinner and drinks and to renew old friendships that help sustain connections between the English Department and Chicago-area high schools. This year, the guest speaker was Professor **William (Bill) Ayers**, (UIC, Education) who spoke about the role of teaching in a democratic society. If you would like to reconnect with UIC English Education and fellow alumni, contact Professor **Todd DeStigter** at tdestig@uic.edu.

Join us at the Fourth Annual Meeting of the LAS Alumni Association

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009 9 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
STUDENT CENTER EAST, ROOM 509
750 SOUTH HALSTED STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Join us to learn about the many accomplishments in LAS, and to meet Dean Dwight A. McBride.

GUEST SPEAKERS

UIC Student: William Michael, '07 LAS, MD '12



photo by Renee Gooch

Michael graduated cum laude with college honors and earned highest departmental distinction in Biological Sciences in 2007. He served in Iraq as a United States Marine while completing his bachelor's degree, and also initiated research in South Africa involving the African Giant Rat. Michael is a medical student in the UIC College of Medicine.

UIC Faculty: Professor Maria Krysan, PhD, University of Michigan '95



photo by Kathryn Marchetti

Krysan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and the Institute of Government and Public Affairs. Co-author of *Racial Attitudes in America: Trends and Interpretations* (Harvard University Press, Revised Edition, 1997), Krysan focuses her research on racial residential segregation and racial attitudes.

UIC Alumnus: Professor Vali Siadat, MS '86, PhD '90, DA '97



photo courtesy Vali Siadat

Siadat holds a master's and two doctorates in Mathematics from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He is chair of the Mathematics Department at Daley College where he has taught for twenty-six years. Siadat was recently awarded the Deborah and Frankling Tepper Haimo Award of Distinguished Teaching of Mathematics. The prize is considered the Mathematical Association of America's most prestigious teaching award. Siadat is the first community college professor to win it.



Student Awards

The Department of English announced its year-end award winners at its annual year-end reception on Thursday, May 1, 2008. Among the graduate students receiving awards were: **Ryan Brooks**, Anne Hopewell Selby Award; **Caroline Gottschalk-Druschke**, Department of English Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award; **Cynthia Barounis**, Gender & Women's Studies Graduate Prize; **Erica Bernheim**, Goodnow Award in Poetry for "Vanishing Room"; **Megan Milks**, Goodnow Award in Prose for "Yuri-G"; **Sarah Ingram**, Woods-Lindley Prize; **Aneeka Henderson**, Abraham Lincoln Graduate Fellowship; **Harvey Partica**, Kogan Bonus Award; **Emilio Sauri**, Provost's Award for Graduate Research; and **Caleb Spencer**, Dean's Scholarship.

Undergraduates receiving awards were: **Jane Erb**, Van Keuren Award; **Vicky Lim**, Champion Award; **Elizabeth Gutierrez**, Critical Essay Award; **Beatriz J. Ruiz**, Creative Writing Award; **Robyn Chang**, Creative Writing Finalist; **Tanya Sonna**, Silver Award.

Recently, undergraduate students **Priscilla Lizasuain** (Teaching of English) and **Kaitlin Peters** (English) were awarded Alfred Kuehn Scholarships. The award is for "needy, able, and deserving women" who are pursuing degrees related to literary studies. The scholarship is a one year renewable merit award.



Professor **Todd DeStigter** with **Sarah Ingram**, winner of the Woods-Lindley Prize, at the 2008 Year-end reception.

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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