Dear Friends,

The department has been busy this fall with the variety of lectures, readings, performances, exhibitions, and publications that marks it as one of the strongest at UB and indeed in the nation. We look forward to an equally rich and full spring semester.

In particular, we are delighted to announce three faculty promotions this fall: that of Andy Stott to the rank of Professor, of Randy Schiff to the rank of Associate Professor with continuing appointment (“tenure”), and of myself to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor. This semester we also are enjoying the presence of seven international visiting scholars, including one alumnus—Professor Seong-Kon Kim from Korea (see page 4). Other visiting scholars are from Japan, China, and Finland.

We are now actively planning for the English Department Alumni Reunion on April 13-14 (Friday and Saturday), 2012. T. S. Eliot claimed that “April is the cruellest month, breeding / Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing / Memory and desire, stirring / Dull roots with spring rain.” We, however, are planning for an April where the mixing of memory and desire leads to renewed and new friendships and the opportunity to be challenged by—and to challenge—the department’s current faculty and students. And the very last thing this event will be is “dull.”

I look forward to seeing you then!

Cordially,
Cristanne Miller

Cristanne Miller, Edward H. Butler Professor of Literature and Chair of the English Department, was promoted to SUNY Distinguished Professor, the highest rank within the SUNY system, last spring. A prize-winning teacher and dedicated administrator, Cris is also a productive scholar. This spring her fourth authored book, Reading in Time: Emily Dickinson in the Nineteenth Century, will be published with the University of Massachusetts Press. One scholar writes that this book promises “to become one of the most important critical studies on the poet ever written.” Cris has also published Emily Dickinson: A Poet’s Grammar (Harvard 1987), Marianne Moore: Questions of Authority (Harvard 1996), and Cultures of Modernism: Marianne Moore, Mina Loy, and Else Lasker-Schüler (U of Michigan, 2005). In addition to these authored books, she has coauthored Comic Power in Emily Dickinson (with Suzanne Juhasz and Martha Nell Smith) and edited or co-edited eight books—including two primary editions, the Selected Letters of Marianne Moore (Knopf 1997) and “Words for the Hour”: A New Anthology of American Civil War Poetry (U of Massachusetts, 2005). Her other publications range from writing on gender and language, to “soundings in poetry and theory,” to anthology selections for the period of American literature from 1865 to 1914.
Join Us for the English Department Reunion!

FRIDAY April 13


TBA  bus to Albright Knox Gallery for a tour of “Wish you were here: The Buffalo Avant-Garde in the 1970s” followed by a reading by department alums and reception

SATURDAY April 14

Breakfast with your UB peers (TBA)

10:00-10:30  coffee in Clemens Hall 120
10:30-11:45: go back to class with SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professors Diane Christian & Bob Daly
12-1:30: lunch on your own. There are lots of restaurants on campus, including Bollywood Bistro, Dancing Chopsticks, Jonny C’s NY Deli, La Rosa Pizzeria, & Mexican, sushi, and other food court options; nearby possibilities include Elmo’s and Duff’s for wings
1:30-2:30  Workshop discussions with UB faculty in areas including crime fiction, Shakespeare, Psychoanalytic Theory, a Dickinson poem, or writing innovative fiction.
2:30-3:00  coffee break
3:00  slide show of students & faculty in the department over the last 50 years
3:15-4:00  panel & discussion with current undergraduates: “Why English?”
4:00-5:00  roundtable discussion with alums, topic TBA
5:00-6:00  reception for current and past students and faculty
6:30  reunion dinner

Urge your friends to join you at the reunion! SEND US PHOTOGRAPHS of your time at UB and book covers or posters of your publications & productions

Keep up to date with who’s coming, where to stay, and reunion events at our website: www.english.buffalo.edu/reunion

VOLUNTEER TO HELP! contact UBEnglishReunion@buffalo.edu or ccmiller@buffalo.edu

TO REGISTER write UBEnglishReunion@buffalo.edu.
Registration fee $135 (includes dinner)

COME EARLY, STAY LATE! Things to do in Buffalo include

*visit the Frank Lloyd Wright Darwin Martin house (tour reservation required)
*see the Buffalo Public Library’s Mark Twain manuscript of Huckleberry Finn (Fri 8:30 - 6; Sun 12 - 5)
*visit the Buffalo Waterfront Erie Canal Harbor Central Wharf
*hear Tan Lihua conduct the Buffalo Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (April 15, 2:30 pm)
*eat (more) wings
*see the Reunion website for more things happening in Buffalo this weekend.
When I first came to Buffalo on a Fulbright scholarship in the 1970s, the UB English Department was in heady days. Thanks to the seemingly unlimited funds provided by Governor Rockefeller, the English Department was so richly subsidized that it attracted the best students and professors in the nation. The faculty rolls were fat with big names such as Leslie Fiedler, Robert Creeley, Norman Holland, Marcus Klein, John Barth, John Coetzee, Michel Foucault, and many more. In addition, our Department was the pioneering center for psychoanalytic theory, cultural studies, and Projective Verse as it became the home of the Black Mountain poets. At that time, the UB English Department was one of the nation’s best.

Even better, the atmosphere of the Department was surprisingly liberal and the professors were extremely nice and friendly. This was something I did not realize until I went to Columbia University later, where I literally experienced cultural shock; naively, I thought all American professors were as friendly and helpful as UB English professors. Previously, I have taught at Columbia, UC Berkeley, Penn State, and Brigham Young, and have been affiliated with Harvard and Oxford as a Visiting Scholar. And I have come to the conclusion that there is no place like UB. The UB English Department is one of a kind that has encouraged its students to explore boldly the unknown realm and take on intellectual adventures independently.

For the past 33 years, therefore, I have been proud of my alma mater. As a professor of English at Seoul National University, I have sent more than 30 graduate students of mine to the Department, highly recommending SUNY Buffalo to them as one of the best institutions to pursue their advanced degree studies. When my daughter Min was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship last year, I also recommended the UB English Department to her. As university valedictorian and Fulbright grantee, Min was also admitted by other prestigious universities, but she chose UB without hesitation. Last year when I was given the last sabbatical before my retirement, I declined an offer from Stanford and decided to come back to UB. I have chosen wisely and I am as happy as I can be now.

After 33 years, I found the UB English Department still glittering with stellar faculty, still liberal, and still intellectually stimulating. And I still found outstanding, brilliant graduate students. I also notice that the Department has become much more organized than before in its guidance of graduate students, providing helpful orientation for incoming students, frequent faculty-student conferences, and regular evaluations of students’ progress. Furthermore, I am pleased to see my former professors, Neil Schmitz, Mark Shechner, and Robert Daly, and other senior professors I used to know, such as Diane Christian, Bruce Jackson. Alan Spiegel, Kenneth Dauber and Roy Roussell, still active.

I am so pleased to be back in my spiritual Heimat after all these years, thereby achieving what Whitman called, the “rondure complete.”

Why I Chose the UB English Department
Min Young Kim

My father used to repeat how lucky he was to have a chance to study in the English Department at SUNY Buffalo, where he could learn from so many distinguished professors and internationally-acclaimed writers. So I, too, came to admire the UB English Department. When my father was a Visiting Fellow at the UB Rockefeller Center in 1991-1992, I attended Maple West Elementary school in Amherst as a first grader. Ever since I left Buffalo for Seoul, South Korea, in 1992, I have been nostalgic for Buffalo. Buffalo is a pleasant and beautiful place to live, and I find the people in Buffalo exceptionally friendly and kind.

When I received an MA degree in English from Seoul National University and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for my doctoral study in the States, therefore, I chose UB without hesitation. I was admitted by several equally prestigious universities with or without an additional university fellowship, but UB was my first and final choice. As a graduate student of English, I am particularly interested in American literature, postcolonialism, and ethnic studies. Also, being a game director and writer in Korea, I am interested in media studies and game studies. For these reasons, the UB English Department, which is exceptionally liberal, is the perfect place for me to pursue my graduate study. Also, upon my arrival, I was very impressed by the extraordinary warmth and thoughtfulness of the faculty.

Previously, I studied at Rutgers University as an exchange student (2006-2007) and was in Robert Hass’s class at UC Berkeley in the spring semester 2006. Here in the UB English Department, I am sure I can find my guiding constellations and launch my literary Odyssey successfully. (See page 8 on Min’s novel.)
I was at UB from 1969 to 1973, and they were a truly heady four years—intellectually, politically, socially, in every conceivable way. I went on to do my master’s and doctoral studies elsewhere. But nothing since then has come anywhere close to the richly fertile intellectual environment of UB English. It was just an incredibly cool place to be. Memories? I have many.

Freshman year: taking an 8am class in the Romantics in one of those frigid, pink trailers and not caring about how sleepy or cold I was, because my TA, Leroy Perkins, was such a dynamic teacher. I remember sitting on the floor of his apartment with the rest of the class, drinking tea and discussing poetry, when students and faculty went out on strike in the spring of 1970 during the campus protests, police occupation, and arrest of the Faculty 45. Spring semester of freshman year was a time of radical politics and rude awakenings, and it was frightening, shocking, and incredibly electrifying. My life changed forever after that.

Sophomore year: reading Twain and Melville in classes with Carl Dennis and Kenneth Dauber that were always illuminating; George Levine’s class in the Modern Political Novel, a course with a particularly topical reading list. Being at UB in the early 1970s, one could not fail to have one’s consciousness of the world raised. By the time I took Professor Levine’s class, the books we read resonated far more profoundly than if I’d taken the course as a callow freshman.

Leslie Fiedler- what can I say about him and his incandescent Shakespeare class? I still remember him pacing back and forth in front of the room, virtually acting out Titus Andronicus for the class, his long, grey hair flying and his ruddy face alive with a passion for the words. The man was brilliant. To be in one of his classes was to be uniquely awakened to the world and to the written word.

I was lucky enough to be one of Diane Christian’s students in my junior year, in the Bible as Literature. She intrigued me for many reasons, not least of which was her engaging, unpretentious manner and clear command of and passion for the subject matter. The fact that she had once been a nun fascinated everyone, adding to her mystique. She had a way of looking at literature that was unique, precisely because of that background. She was cheerfully irreverent and bold and always challenged us. Her class blew me away, just as Leslie Fiedler’s Shakespeare class did. For me, they are both giants.

A special memory of the final exam for The Bible as Lit: sitting in a whitewashed lecture hall with a high ceiling and very tall windows, and taking the exam while heavy snow swirled outside, freakishly punctuated by thunder and lightning! It was anomalous and completely magical—a fitting conclusion to a class that was all about the great mysteries and myths.

Altogether, being an English major at UB was an exciting and enriching experience, one that profoundly shaped my sensibilities as a reader, writer, and teacher of literature. My daughter Jennifer is currently in her junior year as an Art History major/English minor at UB. It is gratifying to know that Professors Christian, Jackson, Dauber, and Schmitz are still there to carry on UB’s tradition of excellence for her and other students. A piece of those glory days I remember is surely still alive and well in their classrooms. It’s a legacy of which UB’s English Department can be justifiably proud.
Madeline Morcelle, Advanced University Honors Scholar, Director of Public Relations on the Honors Student Council, Senior Class Representative.

When asked what I will remember most fondly about my years as an undergraduate at UB, I readily answer that it is my English Professors, who have been nothing short of extraordinary. They take it upon themselves to go above and beyond what could be expected of them, serving as trusted advisors dedicated to counseling and empowering their students in and outside the classroom. During my time here, I have spent hours in my professors’ offices, discussing the way that silence exposes the vulnerability of Lady Brett Ashley in a scene in The Sun Also Rises, the significance of the dying May Bartram’s rise from her seat in “The Beast In The Jungle,” and the beauty and essentiality of the pursuit of one’s passion in “The Artist of the Beautiful.” In each of these out-of-class discourses, rather than tell me what to think, my professors have challenged me to develop my own interpretations.

It would be easy to ascribe this teaching philosophy to the Romantic refusal to hypostasize a normative reading or truth, but I think it extends beyond that. These dedicated teachers are not consumed by an effort to make their students think like they do, but seek to open their minds to a multiplicity of perspectives, teaching us to learn not merely for school, but for life. Because of them, it is with passion and a strong sense of self that I now pursue a career in law and advocacy, remembering their lessons on life, empathy, and a lifelong love for learning. As I complete my senior thesis on Nathaniel Hawthorne’s allegorization of history and humanity in his Legends of The Province House, I cannot help but feel overwhelmingly grateful for the unique experience that this Department offers its students, and feel that I am not only leaving a school but a family joined by a passion for literature and for life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO


The ACP awards attract competition from across the United States, including from schools with full Journalism programs. Amanda and Andrew will hang their award plaques in the Spectrum office, to inspire other students.

Also congratulations to Akilah Carr, Skye Frohlich, and Joanna Thompson who received Arthur O. Eve Educational Opportunity Program high achievement awards.

Report from Andy Stott, Director of Undergraduate Studies:

In Fall 2011, we have 196 declared English majors, 25 of whom have been accepted into the Departmental Honors Program—more than double the number in the program this time last year. In addition, we already have 26 students accepted into the International English Honors Society, Sigma Tau Delta, despite only having had a chapter for three full semesters. This is clearly a sign of the continuing high quality of our majors!

Nine students hold internships this fall. They include Stephanie O’Bryan, who is working at MnM Presents, a leading concert promotion and event booking company based in Buffalo; Nicolas Pino, who is writing game reviews and fact-checking copy for Official Xbox Magazine; and Brian Josephs, who is interning at Maxim Magazine, specializing in their “College Football Blowout!” feature.

Editing the SPEAKEASY

Rachel Todd, a senior English and French major and member of the University Honors Program and the Undergraduate Academies, is editing the fifth edition of Speakeasy, the Undergraduate Journal of Research and Creative Art produced by a staff of undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty at UB’s Institute for Research and Education on Women and Gender. It is available online at http://genderin.buffalo.edu/

Over the past three years this journal has been staffed by, and printed contributions from, many UB English majors, including Luc Barton (BA 2011), Juliana Burkhart (BA 2011), Lauren Carmer (BA 2010), Jessie Kelsey (BA 2010), Jeremy Lessard (BA 2011), Madeline Morcelle (class of 2012), and Joann Pan (BA 2010). It was previously edited by English majors Marina Wright (BA 2010) and Erin Cotter (BA 2011).
Margaret Konkol is the winner of the Joan and Louis Slovinsky Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2011-12, a Gender Institute Scholarship, a Mark Diamond Research Grant, and a UB Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Margaret Konkol was drawn to UB’s English Department and Poetics Program based on its reputation as a magnet for scholars who are also practicing poets. Her primary field is modernist and contemporary poetry. She is currently completing her dissertation, entitled “Modernizing Nature: Poetry, Gender, and National Identity,” which demonstrates that environment has played an integral yet critically ignored role in experimental modernists’ vision of modernity. Margaret received her BA from Reed College and her MA from the University of Virginia. This fall she has been co-teaching the civic engagement course for the Undergraduate Academies with Professor Barbara Bono. Margaret says: “this has been a source of refreshment and inspiration: how many young instructors get to scramble around with rakes and discuss the poetic strategies of Amy Lowell?” Taking students to Buffalo’s West Side for a harbor cleanup on a crisp Sunday morning and leading students through the poetry of Lowell is just one example of how Margaret intertwines her research, teaching, and passion for environmental stewardship. Also, for the past three years Margaret has served as a writer-in-residence for “Writing with Light,” the joint education program of CEPA Photography Gallery and Just Buffalo Literary Center. Through this outreach program, she has taught month-long poetry workshops in public schools in Western New York including inner city, rural, ESL, and Catholic single sex schools, and this past Spring, she was featured as a master teacher in their promotional documentary. Students from a charter school in the Black Rock area were introduced through Margaret’s workshops to Robert Creeley’s jazz rhythms (Creeley lived for many years in Black Rock), Lucille Clifton’s poems of family, and Joe Brainard’s universally appealing “I Remember.”

In response to receiving the Joan and Louis Slovinsky Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Margaret says, “I am deeply grateful for this generous gift, especially at a time in which funding is thin. The fellowship is a precious and concrete gift of time, in which I can finish writing my dissertation.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONGRATULATIONS:

Jeremiah Rush Bowen (current PhD student) is the winner of the first annual Outriders Poetry Project competition. His book “Consolations” will be published by Outriders in early 2012. The Outriders catalogue also includes publications by Ann Goldsmith (PhD 1999), The Spaces Between Us (2010); emeritus professor Martin Pops, Minoxidyl and Other Stories (2010); and emeritus professor Max Wickert, No Cartoons (2011).

Mike Hurst (current PhD student) won the Gender Institute Fellowship for 2012-2013. Mike has previously won both a Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Louis and Joan Slovinsky Dissertation Completion Award (2010-11).

Report from Graham Hammill, Director of Graduate Studies

This fall, 24 new students entered our PhD program and 20 new students entered our Masters Program. These students represent the most accomplished and promising individuals from a pool of over 300 applicants. Eleven incoming students were awarded President Fellowships, UB’s most competitive fellowship intended for exceptional doctorate students. Five incoming students were awarded Dean’s Fellowships, given to the most promising entering graduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences. Three incoming international students were awarded Fulbright fellowships, one from Japan, another from Korea, and a third from Portugal. We are delighted and proud to welcome such a stellar new class to the department.

Featured Students

Margaret Konkol

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Ronan Crowley (BA Trinity College Dublin, 2003; M.Litt Trinity College Dublin, 2008) is a fifth-year PhD candidate and former Presidential Fellow. This past summer he was awarded a Keough-Naughton Institute Fellowship to attend the 2011 Irish Seminar. A graduate program in Irish Studies, the Seminar has been presented annually since 1999 by the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at Notre Dame and is held in Dublin. Past speakers have ranged from Seamus Heaney to Edward Said to Fredric Jameson. Ronan was also the recipient of an award from the Mark Diamond Research Fund to conduct research related to his dissertation while in Ireland. A third grant in 2010-11, from the Digital Humanities Initiative at Buffalo for a small research project, allowed him to put together the mobile program for the annual Modernist Studies Association conference (see page 9).

This is not the first year that Ronan has won national or international fellowships. In the summer of 2010 he received scholarships from both the International Association for Study of Irish Literature and the International James Joyce Foundation (Fritz Senn Scholarship) to attend the association conferences in Belgium and Prague, respectively. A version of his paper for the International James Joyce Association conference in Prague was the winner of the James Joyce Broadsheet Graduate Essay Competition for 2010. In summer 2010, Ronan also received a summer research grant from the UB Humanities Institute to work on his dissertation.

Ronan came to UB to work on the James Joyce Collection housed in the Poetry Collection and has published an article on the manuscripts of Ulysses in the James Joyce Quarterly, the flagship journal of international Joyce studies. Other work has appeared or is forthcoming in European Joyce Studies, Genetic Joyce Studies, and the edited collection James Joyce in the Nineteenth Century. He is currently writing a dissertation on Irish copyright and the role of quotation in twentieth-century Irish literature. Individual chapters focus on the prepublication materials of Ulysses, Denis Johnston’s The Old Lady Says “No!”, and John Montague’s The Rough Field.

Min Young Kim, first-year PhD student, has come to UB as an accomplished fiction writer. She has published a visual (digital) novel, a genre and medium which is similar to hypertext fiction but puts more emphasis on cause and effect, as the medium makes possible. In Phantasma (2007) there are various plots. The novel ponders the meaning of Plato’s phantasma and explores the ways in which the digital world (internet, games) can shape the physical world and ideas.

Kim writes, “Phantasma was my first launched website. To my surprise, many people read it and gave positive feedback. My website has approximately 2,000 posts talking about Phantasma, and there are 1,000 blogs reviewing it thoroughly. Due to this response, a mobile game company called Lion Logics took interest in Phantasma and I was able to publish it as a mobile application, launched for SKT, LGT, and KT mobile phones in 2009. “Currently I am working on a daughter-raising simulation game with Sinae Park, who is studying art in L.A. This game is situated in the fantasy world, but it’s about discrimination and its brutal effects on the individual. The daughter, because of her features, is exposed to various temptations to pass as the mainstream race. One of the goals of the game is to teach her about these issues. I find these themes important for Korean readers; in a nation where nationality and ethnicity are almost identical, racial consciousness can be very limited. We will also publish another novel and game for Lion Logics, based on Greek myth, Chinese history, and talks about the relationship between writer, reader, and critic today.”

David Hadbawnik (current PhD student) has directed UB’s Poet’s Theater since spring 2009. Buffalo Poet’s Theater’s first production was The Origins of Old Son by Robert Duncan, followed by Celebrity Hospital by Kevin Killian. A collaboration between UB Poetics students and poets from the Buffalo community, Poet’s Theater performs poets’s plays in the tradition of the New York Poets Theater, founded by Diane di Prima and others in the 1950s, and the still thriving Poets Theater in the Bay Area. For the MSA staging of Stein’s Dr. Faustus Lights the Lights, David says, “we staged what we hoped would be a dramatic illustration of some modernist materials.” David is a poet and performer who also runs Habenicht Press and edits the journal Kadar Koli. He is currently beginning to write a dissertation on medieval literature.
Modernist Studies Association Conference: Structures of Innovation

The MSA’s 13th annual conference was held in downtown Buffalo October 6-9. It included around 750 participants, and as many as 15 simultaneous panel sessions daily, on topics ranging from eco-poetics and modernist attention to various “body parts” to visual arts, architecture, music and well-known authors. The theme, “Structures of Innovation,” called attention to Buffalo’s contributions to the modernist era in a variety of fields and to its continuing resources for scholars of this period: in architecture (Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan, and other greats whose buildings still stand), in visual arts (the Albright Knox), in film (Buffalo was home of the first dedicated movie theatre!), in music, and in literature. UB also houses the largest collection of Joyce manuscripts in the world and an extensive collection of little magazines and manuscript materials for twentieth-century poetry.

Many UB graduate students, faculty, and alums participated in the conference, including Michael Davidson (a keynote speaker; PhD 1973), Carla Billitteri (PhD 2001), Logan Esdale (PhD 2003), James Maynard (PhD 2007), and Kelley Wagers (PhD 2007). Davidson and Billitteri are pictured here, along with UB poet and professor Myung Mi Kim, poet Kathy Lou Schultz, and others presenting at the conference.

Special events at the conference included a reading at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center featuring fifteen poets who participated in the conference, and a Buffalo Poets Theatre staged reading of Gertrude Stein’s one-act play Dr. Faustus Lights the Lights and three Futurist “shorts” at the Alleyway Cabaret Theatre (see page 8).

With twenty-eight undergraduate and graduate volunteers, graduate assistant Margaret Konkol, digital resources assistant Ronan Crowley, and on-site AV coordinator Nick Morris, conference participants were in excellent hands.

Thanks to the weather and to the great resources of Buffalo, participants left the conference both with a renewed appreciation of the city and inspired by four days of non-stop intellectual stimulation.

The Conference was directed by Cristanne Miller, former president and board member of the MSA.
JUST BUFFALO LITERARY CENTER & UB ENGLISH:
SUSTAINING THE LITERARY ARTS IN WNY

Just Buffalo Literary Center (www.justbuffalo.org) is living up to its mission statement with the help of UB, “Creating and strengthening communities through the literary arts.” The Executive Director Laurie Dean Torrell (BA 1985), Associate & Artistic Director Michael Kelleher (MA 2002), and Education Director Barbara Cole (PhD 2006) are all alumni of UB’s English Department (Michael and Barbara worked in Poetics). For 36 years the organization has worked to advance the vision of a community that fully supports and values the love of reading, the art of writing, and the power of the literary arts to transform individual lives and communities.

Laurie Torrell has spent 25 years in non-profit mission-based organizations. As Executive Director, she is responsible for bringing exceptional writers and literature to local audiences, encouraging literary reading, and inspiring student imagination and achievement. Since joining Just Buffalo in 2002, Laurie has increased the annual budget and secured competitive national, state, and local grants to fund programs. She has made strategic collaboration a cornerstone of Just Buffalo’s way of working, promoting trust over competition and strengthening programming, revenue diversification, and organizational visibility. Laurie’s two national articles about this initiative received a National Certificate of Recognition by the Kellogg and Lodestar Foundations.

Michael Kelleher, Associate & Artistic Director, was Curator of Readings from 1997-2002, when he was appointed Artistic Director, responsible for the development and implementation of Just Buffalo’s artistic vision, including the curation, execution, marketing and oversight of all public literary programming. Since then, his duties have expanded to include providing leadership for public relations and marketing, and support for development and fund-raising.

As Education Director, Barbara Cole is responsible for a full array of literary arts education programs, community-based and collaborative initiatives including Writing With Light, developed with colleagues at CEPA Gallery to combine literary arts with photography. She received her MA in Poetry from Temple University and served as assistant director of Composition and adjunct instructor in UB’s English Department before moving to Just Buffalo. (Article by Robin Brox, Just Buffalo Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator (UB BA 2001).

Lia Habel (a pen-name; BA 2004) published her first novel, titled Dearly, Departed (Del Ray 2011); it’s set in the late twenty-second century and involves “New Victorians” and zombies! Lia is now working on a sequel, to be called “Dearly, Beloved.” See her blog at liahabel.com.

Denise M. Juron-Borgese (BA Architecture 1993, BA English 1994, MA U of Pennsylvania 1997) is a licensed architect in New York State and a LEED Accredited Professional with a specialty in Building Design and Construction. After about a dozen years of practicing architecture in Philadelphia and Washington D.C., Denise returned to her hometown region of Western New York. She is a Development Project Manager with Ciminelli Real Estate Corporation, working on diverse development initiatives. Her current projects include the Bethune Lofts at Buffalo Meter Company, which was the former home of UB’s Architecture and Arts Departments. She serves as President of the Buffalo Architecture Foundation, a member of the Board of the Buffalo/WNY Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Interior Design Department at Buffalo State College. She currently resides with her husband, UB alumnus Antonio Borgese (M. Arch, 1994) and their two sons.

Chris Leise (PhD 2007) has just published a co-edited book, called Pynchon’s Against the Day: A Corrupted Pilgrim’s Guide (with Jeffrey Severs). It was published by the University of Delaware Press, 2011.

Maura Pellettieri (BA 2009) founded an underground bread cooperative on Buffalo’s east side after graduating from UB. She is now spending the winter in a small town on the west coast writing fiction. About her time in Buffalo, she writes, “When I enrolled at UB in 2004, I considered majors in several departments but was quickly drawn toward the English department, where my classes were consistently challenging. I thought this is how education should feel – not obligatory. The classes I found to be the most compelling were those that had relevance for my city, community, and generation – usually discussion-heavy classes in which literature was read in a historical context – for example, Carrie Bremen’s course on “Latino/Cultural Theory” and Damien Keane’s “Irish Literature after 1922.” Such classes transported me by reaching outside of the syllabi and even, brilliantly, outside the township of Amherst. My participation in Christina Milletti’s Creative Writing workshops also transformed my time at UB. The English Department’s Creative Writing workshops are not for the faint-hearted; they are among the most challenging classes the Department has to offer. I remain grateful to my mentors for their willingness to read my seemingly endless drafts, and for patiently pointing out some pretty terrible sentences.”

Tony Rudnicki (BA 1965) is completing a book to be called “Mosaic of Minds: A Western New York Bipolar Journey.” It includes 52 stories.

Mark Francis Schwab (BA 1976) has published a new novel, The Spouse Stealer, which depicts the end of the Baby-Boomer Era and recalls Buffalo: “I kept my mind on the distant Buffalo skyline this morning...there will be no placid horizons from some twenty-seventh floor window looking across to these Canadian shoals.” Mark was CEO & SVP of Creative Services at MF Schwab & Associates, Inc. Advertising & Public Relations Agency; he now
Jaye Stahl (BA 1972) writes that “On Saturday, August 27, the Malibu Stage Repertory Theatre Company did a one-time staged performance of my new play, An Omelet for Vinnie, starring legendary actors Ed Asner and John Savage in the lead roles.” The performance was sold out.

Marta Werner (PhD 1993) is Associate Professor of English at D’Youville College, where she teaches literature and writing. She is the author of Emily Dickinson’s Open Folios: Scenes of Reading, Surfaces of Writing (U of Michigan Press, 1995), Radical Scatters: An Electronic Archive of Emily Dickinson’s Late Fragments and Related Texts (U of Michigan Press, 1999/Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, 2010), and with Nicholas Lawrence, Ordinary Mysteries: The Common Journal of Nathaniel and Sophia Hawthorne (American Philosophical Society, 2006). Marta’s most recent work is a critical edition of Hannah Weiner’s The Book of Revelations soon to be published in Jacket2. She was awarded both the Bowers Prize and the JoAnn Boydson Prize for her work as a textual scholar. Her current interests include work in disability studies, and she is chairing a panel at this year’s MLA entitled “Silent Night: An Archive of the Deaf and Blind.” Marta is a long time member of the Society of Textual Scholarship and currently co-chair of the MLA’s Committee on Scholarly Editions.

In Memoriam:

Sam Colop (JD 1983 Rafael Landivar University; MA Linguistics University of Iowa; PhD 1994 UB English)

Luis Enrique Sam Colop, died at his home near Guatemala City on July 15. He was born in 1955 in K’ante, a K’iche’ Maya town near Quetzaltenango. K’antel distinguished itself during the Guatemalan civil war of the 1980s by refusing to allow the army to establish a base there. Sam Colop later served on the commission that investigated the crimes carried out by Guatemalan government and army during the civil war.

As a poet, Sam anticipated the Mayan cultural renaissance with two bilingual books, Versos sin refugio: quiche y espanol (1978) and La copa y la raiz (1979), both published in Guatemala. In 1999 he published a critical edition of the K’iche text of greatest work of Mayan literature, Popol Wuj Version poetica k’iche’, the first version of the text to fully reveal its poetic forms. He followed this in 2008 with Popol Wuj: Traduccion al espanol y notas, again with full attention to poetic forms.

On the day he died, Sam sent in the text of his last newspaper column for La Prensa Libre, titled Ucha’xik; as always, it was written in both Spanish and K’iche. On some days he wrote fearlessly about political matters, and on others he turned his attention to Mayan history and the interpretation of Mayan texts. He was the first Mayan to write for a national newspaper, and the first writer to persuade such a newspaper to publish writing in a Mayan language.

by Dennis Tedlock, SUNY Distinguished Professor and McNulty Chair in the English Department

Martin Pops UB Professor Emeritus

Marty is the reason I am here at UB. I returned to college in 1986 at the age of 26 and my first summer course was English 201 with Professor Pops. He was inspiring. I decided that summer I would become a Professor (another story). I took a couple of other courses with him over the years of my undergraduate tenure here. He was an amazing and gifted teacher. I think most students either loved him or hated him. He was outspoken to the point of being a little intimidating. When he taught James Fennimore Cooper he lectured about the Leatherstocking tales with a tone of mockery that I’m not sure all students quite got. His personality was a difficult read. But, personally, I think he loved the stories the way we love Superman movies and other superhero/folk tales that require the suspension of disbelief. The point is, he inspired me the way all teachers hope to inspire. I was very sad to read of his passing in the UB Reporter (http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/2011_10_13/colleagues).

by Patricia Carey Assistant Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (BA 1991, MA 1993)
Dear Alumni,

The English Department is going green! All copies of our department newsletter are available electronically. If you’d like to receive the newsletter electronically at a different email address, or different postal address, please let us know. And remember: keep sending us your news and updates!

Best wishes,
UB English